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Clinton changes actics on andmine ampaaign

BY TOM RHODES AND MICHAEL EVANS

DENT CLINTON and last night that Ameri-
can support an in-
tial ban on landmines
end of the year, provid-
ing an unexpected boost for
the campaign supported by
Princess of Wales.
The apparent reversal of
Clinton's position was
welcomed by the
movement, which decided
after taking office to
use operational use of
personnel landmines and
to try all stocks by 2005.
Clinton has now decided
to support America's full weight
in a Canadian initiative
has called for an agree-
ment to ban anti-personnel
mines by December. More
50 countries, including
the United States, have
joined the Ottawa process
and than a hundred are
not willing to sign
treaties. Foreign Office
es said that America's
renewed support would give
"fresh impetus" to the
campaign.
The White House an-
nouncement comes less than
a week after the Princess's
trip to Herat to meet
nine victims. Her visit
led to claims that she was
going in politics, but her
real of the issue has now
led the backing of the
powerful political leader
in the world.
Mr White, co-founder of
the Mine Survivors Net-
work, said that the Princess's
visit had been pivotal in
rethinking the strategy. "I think it was
the which pushed them over
the edge. Her symbolic visit to
the area showed that Clinton
just sitting on the fence on
this issue. The timing was
perfect. August is a dead
time in Washington and she
is there."

Clinton had previously fo-
cused his attention on the
ed Nations Conference on
armament in Geneva and
avoided playing a part in
the Ottawa process, on the
grounds that it could not lead
to a global ban. The biggest
mine users and produc-
ers, such as China, are not
of the Ottawa process.
Clinton had also been
ned by his defence chiefs

that landmines remained es-
sential in safeguarding Ameri-
can troops' lives in certain
areas, including the demil-
itarised zone separating the
two Koreas.

But last night he made clear
that he was not prepared to
wait for the Geneva negotia-
tions to grind their way to a
conclusion and agreed to
switch his efforts to the Cana-
dian talks. He will now send
senior officials to Geneva to
discuss that decision.

The next phase of the Cana-
dian initiative begins in Oslo
next month when, according
to a White House statement,
"The United States will work
with the other participating
nations to secure an agree-
ment that achieves our hu-
manitarian goals while pro-
tecting our national security
interests."

Mr Clinton is also seeking
early Senate action to limit the
use of landmines by the Ameri-
can military in advance of the
planned Ottawa treaty.

Robert Bell of the National
Security Council, who will
head the American delegation
to Geneva, is, however, said to
be looking at ways to amend
the draft treaty to allow the
continued deployment of
"smart" mines, which self-
destruct within 48 hours, and
to allow American forces to
carry on using "dumb" mines
on the Korean peninsula.

While he welcomed Mr
Clinton's decision, Mr White
of the survivors network said
that America's involvement
would make the Oslo negotia-
tions much tougher. "On the
one hand this is terrific news,
on the other it is worrying.
America wants flexibility and
wants to force exceptions into
the Ottawa treaty which will
make it all the harder to
negotiate. We must all be
ready for tough talks."

Estimates show that 9,600
people are killed and 14,000
wounded each year by
landmines. And a recent re-
port said that nearly 90 per
cent of the mines and booby
traps used against Americans
in Vietnam and Korea were
either manufactured in Ameri-
ca or made by enemy troops
with captured components.



A mischievous John Prescott holds up the aggressive Chinese Mitten crab that he yesterday likened to Peter Mandelson

Shell warfare on the Thames

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN PRESCOTT yesterday
poked fun at Peter
Mandelson's ambition to win
a seat on Labour's National
Executive Committee by nam-
ing an aggressive alien crab
with a reputation as a predator
after his ministerial
colleague.

Posing for photographs on a
Thames boat with Dennis, a
Chinese Mitten crab in a glass
jar, a beaming Mr Prescott
said: "Do you know what his
name is? He's called Peter."

Then, addressing the crab,
actually a female, Mr Prescott
said: "Do you think you'll get
on the National Executive,
Peter?"

Mr Prescott's gibe at Mr
Mandelson, the Minister
without Portfolio, was a light-
hearted reminder of the bitter
rivalry between two of the
most senior members of the
Government who, since the
election, have worked hard at
trying to present a more
united front.

But earlier this month Mr
Prescott was furious when Mr
Mandelson tried to upstage
him and suggested that they
were both "minding the shop"
while the Prime Minister is on
holiday. Since then the two
have been jockeying for the
position of being in charge, a

race in which Mr Mandelson
has made most of the running.
Yesterday Mr Prescott could
not resist having a go. First the
Deputy Prime Minister, on a
visit to Greenwich, blundered
in on Mr Mandelson's pet
project. He claimed that a
decision to award a £6.1m
contract to Germany for the
PVC coating of the Millenium
Dome was a "sad reflection
on the competency" of
British industry.

A hundred miles away in
Coventry, Mr Mandelson was
claiming that the Millenium
Project was a British success
story.

Although he did not, Mr
Mandelson could have been
excused for taking exception to
Mr Prescott's gibe because the
Chinese Mitten crab (*Eriocheir sinensis*) is described as
an "alien predator" by envi-
ronmentalists. The crab,
which made its way to British
waters from Asia in ships' ballast
water in the early part of the
century, gobbles up food more
quickly than native riv-
als. It also has the advantage
of being able to survive in both
salt and fresh water. When the
Thames is at low tide, the crabs
burrow into the mud in search
of food with their distinctive
fur-covered claws.

A spokesman for the Environ-
ment Agency said: "The Chi-
nese Mitten crab is rather
aggressive. It can threaten
native crabs, eels and crayfish
by eating the food first."

Mr Prescott got involved
with Dennis at a press confer-
ence to launch a £10 million
"ecologically sensitive" flood
defence scheme to protect the
Millenium Dome site. The
new defences are designed to
create an important habitat
for wildlife.

Later yesterday Mr Prescott
tried to play down his re-

marks, making clear that they
were intended in jest. He said
he wished Mr Mandelson all
the best in his attempt to "claw
his way" onto the NEC, adding:
"I hope his pincer move-
ment goes well, because I
know that under his hard
shell, he has a soft heart."

Mr Mandelson appeared to
take the matter in good part,
saying he was "relaxed and
amused" at the Deputy Prime
Minister's comments. He
confirmed yesterday that he
would stand for the NEC and
criticised Ken Livingstone, the
left-winger, who is seen as his
clearest rival.

Mr Mandelson said: "I con-
firm that I am standing for the
NEC in the vacancy created by
Gordon Brown's decision to
stand down. Unlike Ken Liv-
ingstone... I am a strong
supporter and ally of Gordon
Brown."

In recent weeks Mr
Mandelson has attempted to
improve his appeal across the
Labour party. Last Thursday
he delivered an important
lecture to the Fabian Society
outlining plans for a new
Cabinet Office unit to address
the problem of social
exclusion.

See article, page 17



"It must be John Prescott's crab - it's spinning like mad"

In France, happiness is a cold beer

The Prime Minister finds
time on holiday to talk to *The
Times*. Susan Bell reports
from St Martin d'Oydes



TONY BLAIR invited *The
Times* into his holiday home in
St Martin d'Oydes south of
Toulouse yesterday for a cold
beer and a chat about Franco-
British relations.

Bumping into a perspiring
Mr Blair as he finished play-
ing tennis on the village court,
I asked him if he would
answer a few questions about
his meeting later in the week
with Lionel Jospin, the French
socialist Prime Minister
whose political flief, Cin-
tagabelle, is less than 18 miles
away.

Replying that he just needed
a little time to take a shower
and change, he said he would
be happy to welcome me back
to the house for an informal
chat over a drink.

Seated on white plastic
chairs at a small table, we
shared a beer beneath the
shady tree in the gardens of
the 12th-century chateau be-
longing to the High Court
judge Sir David Keene, where
the Blairs are staying for a
week.

Looking tanned, if a bit hot
after his energetic two-hour

game of tennis in the swelter-
ing afternoon heat, Mr Blair
was obviously enjoying his
holiday. I asked him if there
were any specific subjects he
planned to discuss with M
Jospin.

"I'm sure we'll go through
the whole thing: relations in
Europe, numerous questions
of Franco-British relations,
and party to party discus-
sions," he replied. Later he
quashed any rumours that he
and the French leader had not
hit it off particularly well in
prior meetings by empha-
sising their good personal
relationship. "He is a very
decent and intelligent man,"
said Mr Blair.

Asked whether M Jospin's
election win last May could
signal a change of direction for
Europe, Mr Blair said: "M

Jospin's Government has giv-
ing greater emphasis to jobs,
employment and the social
dimension of Europe, but
going by the two major sum-
mits since the French election
— in Amsterdam and Madrid
— there has been less distance
than people might have
thought."

Mr Blair thought there was
a great opportunity for Britain
to do things in Europe, which
to a certain extent was looking
for Britain's leadership.

Referring to suggestions
that new Labour was different
from an unreformed French
Socialist party, Mr Blair said
that while traditions were
different between the two, they
shared the desire to create
thriving business, social inclu-
sion, and a commitment to
tackling long-term poverty —

Major breaks silence to attack plans for cricket

BY JILL SHERMAN AND JOHN GOODBODY

JOHN MAJOR launched his
first public attack on the
Labour Government last
night, when he rose in defence
of the subject dearest to his
heart: cricket.

The former Prime Minister
accused ministers of "sheer
political spite" in planning to
exclude team games from the
British Academy of Sport and
urged them to reverse the
policy "before it makes a
mockery of our nation's sport-
ing ambitions".

His onslaught came as
Chris Smith, the Culture Sec-
retary, suggested that Lottery
money might be made avail-
able for a cricket academy that
could be linked to the national
headquarters.

He also agreed — after a
hastily arranged meeting with
Lord MacLaurin, the chair-
man of the England and
Wales Cricket Board (ECB),
on other options to boost
finances for the game — to
look at an ECB deal under
which television rights for Test
matches would be shared by
BSkyB and the BBC.

The apparent policy shift
came after an outcry over
reports that cricket, rugby and
football would not be included
in the sporting academy —
which would instead focus on
Olympic sports — and alarm
that subscription channels
might be allowed to bid for TV
rights for Test matches.

Breaking his post-election
silence, Mr Major said: "The
Labour Government's ill-
judged decision to exclude
three key national sports from
the proposed academy shows
how little they know or care
about sport. They have exclud-
ed precisely those sports
which most bring the nation
together — football, rugby and
cricket."

"Team sports appear to be

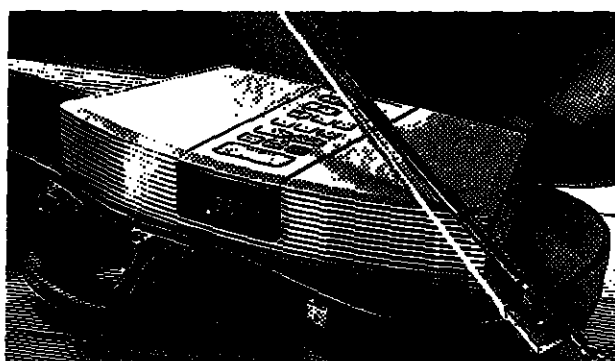
being treated as a dangerous
competitive exercise by the
politically correct commissars
that now run the ministry of
Culture, Media and Sport. It is
sheer political spite to exclude
these sports."

"As cricket is thinking about
the way forward and building
a plan to safeguard its future
Labour is intent on sabotage.
The offer of future Lottery
money is simply a figleaf to
cover their embarrassment at
excluding this sport from the
academy."

Mr Major, evidently peeved
that Mr Smith has hijacked
his own project and stripped it
of his favourite sport, also
attacked Labour's plans to
consider allowing Test match-
es to be shown on subscription
channels. "Taking cricket out
of the protected list of terrestrial
television sports could be the
price of this folly — a move
which would stop millions of
people from watching Test
cricket, many of them retired
or on low incomes."

But last night the Govern-
ment said it would seriously
consider plans put up by the
cricket authorities to split the
home Test match contract, at
present held by the BBC, with
BSkyB. One option is to
alternate the screening of Test
matches and allow the BBC
greater use of highlights of
matches shown exclusively on
BSkyB.

BSkyB, which is part owned
by News International which
also owns the *Times*, already
carries some cricket coverage
including one-day internation-
als and the Benson and
Hedges Cup. But home Test
matches are among the eight
"crown jewels" of sporting
events which have to be shown
on terrestrial television. The
Government is reviewing all
the listed events.



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Alcopop marketing 'is a scandal'

Brewers stand accused of using drug imagery to aim drinks at the teenage dance scene, reports Richard Ford

BREWERS were accused yesterday of introducing alcopops as a "scandalous" play to revive drink sales threatened by young people's taste for Ecstasy and soft drinks at raves.

Sarah Berger, director of Drinkline, a government helpline, said companies were profiteering by aiming their products at youngsters attracted to the rave scene. "Why else have labels that glow in the dark?"

Miss Berger, a former social worker, told a conference at Leicester University: "Alcopops are part of the fightback against an increasing drug culture. Sales of alcohol are definitely under threat from drugs."

"There is no doubt in my mind that the drinks industry is now targeting the drug culture in a bid to claw back some of those lost sales. You just have to look at some of the packaging — the bright colours and their hallucinogenic images — to see that they are trying to attract people who go to dance clubs."

Hundreds of thousands of teenagers take recreational drugs, according to academic studies, with Ecstasy being the most popular on the dance scene. But many ravers shun alcohol, saying that it reduces their stamina.

Miss Berger said alcopops were not the root cause of under-age drinking, or a leading sign of moral decline among modern youth, but she condemned the big brewers, whom she said spent £200 million on promoting the drinks. "Alcopops are a blatant example of profiteering by the drinks trade, and our apparent inability to curb promotion of alcohol products. It is nothing short of scandalous."

She told the conference that the drinks industry had only itself to blame for the hostility it had encountered since developing and marketing alcopops. "It serves the industry right. They have brought it upon themselves by their idiotic pursuit of profit. The movement of the market has been allowed to take precedence over the commonsense protection of the young."

Bass Charrington, producer of the alcopop Hooper's Hooch, said: "Miss Berger is entitled to her viewpoint, but we disagree with it. Hooper's Hooch was launched to give people an alternative when they go into pubs and clubs. People had been drinking lager and beer for hundreds of years, and there comes a point when they say, 'I don't like that. What do I drink now?' We developed Hooper's Hooch for that."

The main alcopop producers were invited to the conference, but did not turn up, nor did the industry's self-regulating body, the Portman Group, which was also invited. The conference was called to look at the development of alcopops and whether the focus on their development concealed wider problems of under-age drinking.

Figures were given to delegates showing the dramatic rise in popularity of alcopops since they first became available two years ago. Among almost one in five children aged 14 to 15, alcopops are now the favourite drink: two years ago, they were not even mentioned.

The percentage of children of 14 and 15 admitting to having been drunk rose from 60.1 to 68.1. Alisdair Forsyth, a researcher at the Centre of Drug Misuse at the University of Glasgow, who interviewed 1,308

children in Dundee, said: "More kids are drinking, more kids are getting drunk, and more kids are drinking heavily."

He said it was unclear whether alcopops were to blame for the rise in drunkenness among young teenagers, as white cider and vodka were the drinks they admitted consuming to get drunk.

His study found that, in November 1994, the most popular alcoholic drink among young children was white cider, which 27.3 per cent said they drank, compared with 16.6 per cent for premium lager, 13.8 per cent for vodka and 13.1 per cent for beer. Alcopops did not feature.

But by January 1997, 18.8 per cent said alcopops were their favourite drink, compared with 17.3 per cent for beer, 11.4 per cent for premium lager and 11.7 per cent for white cider.

Blair breaks with linguistic tradition of Downing St

By DENIS TAYLOR

WHEN Churchill addressed a crowd in post-war Strasbourg he warned his highly appreciative audience: "Watch out, I am going to speak French!" His successors at No 10 have tended to avoid airing any linguistic knowledge, until the advent of Tony Blair.

The late Harold Wilson was probably on safe ground by dropping the occasional Russian word into a speech to Soviet leaders. But enough Britons remembered enough school French to have a fit of merriment on hearing Edward Heath's "Broadstairs" French. If the effort came from a less expected quarter, as when Margaret Thatcher made some remarks in French while she and the late President Mitterrand met for the signing of the Channel Tunnel treaty in 1986, the impact could perhaps be more effective.

Sir Anthony Eden was an exception to the rule that British political leaders did not seriously meddle with foreign tongues.

The real linguists among

parliamentarians have tended not to reach the highest office in the party or land. Lord Healey, the former Chancellor, speaks Italian and German as well as French. Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, has fluent French and Italian, and studied Chinese during his diplomatic career.

Enoch Powell knows a exceptional number of European and Asian languages. One eminent Conservative who only briefly held ministerial office, the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean, spoke Russian and Serbo-Croat as well as French, German and Italian.

French, of course, used to be the language of international diplomacy. Disraeli was gearing himself to address the 1878 Congress of Berlin in his less than satisfactory French. In stepped a Sir Humphrey of the day to persuade him that the other delegates would be deeply disappointed if they were deprived of hearing such a master of English speak to them in his own tongue.



Tony Blair chats to a village shopkeeper during a stroll with his family yesterday

Beer

Continued from page 1

he spent as a 22-year-old working in a Paris bar and later at the Groupe des Assurances Nationales, where he said he helped out in the office "distributing pastries and teaching people English."

"I had a ball for five months," he said. "I went out every night. If you've ever lived in Paris it's hard not to love France. It's a great country with beautiful countryside and I am very fond of the people. We always get such a warm and friendly welcome here."

"There are so many great things to see and obviously the culture, the history, literature and art are of great importance. France is one of the great European nations, and will obviously be very important in shaping the future of the European Union."

Mr Blair seemed surprised by the amount of French press interest in his stay. When I told him how delighted people were by his open and friendly approach, he laughed the image of Britons overseas.

"It's a great shame that there seems to be a tendency for people abroad to see the British as pompous and stuck-up, which is quite simply not true of most British people. Anyway, when you've worked in a Parisian bar, there's not much pomposity left at the end of the day."

Mr Blair, who speaks fluent French, arrived with his family at the weekend for an eight-day stay.

Loyalists take lessons in winning sympathy

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER Loyalists are attending media classes to learn how to attract public sympathy with tales of oppression and hardship. The Ulster Unionist Party and the Orange Order are being taught nationalist strategies of story-telling and personalising the anguish suffered by Protestants since the Troubles began in 1969.

They are being told that story-telling is more effective on national and international television than a dogged debate about issues and rights. Eoghan Harris, a pro-Unionist media consultant from the Irish Republic, who is one of the principal teachers, said: "Irish people are very good at telling the tale, and Sinn Féin uses that to great advantage. Unionists feel uncomfortable

with that kind of thing, preferring to talk about establishment things and issues. They may be the facts of the situation, but they have no effect on the world's comprehension."

Mr Harris, who grew up among nationalists in Cork but is now fervently supportive of the Unionists, is giving the training free of charge. A former journalist in RTE, the Irish state broadcaster, he has advised Mary Robinson, the Irish president, and John Bruton, the former Prime Minister, on media skills. He is in regular contact with David Trimble, leader of the UUP, and Robert Saulters, leader of the Orange Order.

Earlier this year, Mr Harris held a one-day session with

the Orange Order as they prepared for the July marches. Ruth Dudley Edwards, a Roman Catholic pro-Unionist columnist and author living in London, and Sean O'Callaghan, a former IRA member, have been working with various sections of the Order to explain nationalist and republican thinking. □ Ken Maginnis, the UUP security spokesman, accused Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, last night of turning a blind eye to the murder of two RUC officers in Lurgan in June and to Sinn Féin's refusal to countenance IRA disarmament, and telling "downright lies" in her determination to include Sinn Féin in next month's peace negotiations.

Jaguar hopes to build a new small car in Britain

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR is planning to build a new small car that could cost as little as £15,000. Executives are looking for a £400 million investment so that it could be produced in Britain.

The car would change the company's image as a manufacturer of luxurious and expensive cars to that of a competitor with BMW's successful 3-series, a model that has carved a niche among rising young executives.

The British operation will have to compete with sites abroad to build a factory big enough to make more than 100,000 cars a year, employing thousands more workers, and be ready to launch the new model in about four years.

America is the likely favour-

ite, as Jaguar sells around half its cars there and is also owned by Ford in Detroit. Mercedes-Benz and BMW have both opened plants in America in the past year, cashing in on low investment costs, attractive grants and ready access to the world's biggest car market.

Huge improvements in productivity and reliability have already convinced Ford bosses in America that Jaguar should make a new mid-range car, codenamed the X200, at Castle Bromwich in Birmingham. That model will be ready by 1999, the factory turning out around 100,000 cars a year. The new model would raise total production to more than 250,000 cars a year, almost as many as Vauxhall.

Nick Scheele, Jaguar's chairman, said last night: "We have started a feasibility study because we believe that people want a small Jaguar which has all the cachet and quality of the bigger cars we produce. Our first studies prove that the idea is practical and could be viable. Now we have to test that further and ensure that this is a car we can build in Britain."

Ford has poured money into Jaguar to good effect: after a period in the doldrums, the company's modern saloons and the new XK8 sports car have been voted by juries in America and Italy as among the most beautiful in the world while reliability studies place them among the best from Germany and Japan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Camelot fails to halt rival to lottery

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, yesterday failed to block a rival numbers game run by Britain's three biggest bookmakers. It also failed to have the estimated £650,000 costs of its private action paid for by the taxpayer. Ronald Bartle, stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, London, said Camelot's attempts to halt the fixed-odds numbers game, 49, was centred around its own commercial interest and was not a matter for public funding.

Camelot had brought a private criminal action against Ladbrokes, William Hill and Coral Racing in a bid to stop their games, in which customers bet on six numbers to be drawn. They argued that the 49 games effectively operated as a lottery, contravened the 1976 Lotteries and Amusements Act and were illegal. However, Mr Bartle ruled that the bookmakers's games constituted a fixed-odds bet, which meant they differed from a lottery. Camelot is to appeal.

Old Vic closure fear

The future of the Old Vic theatre was cast into doubt yesterday as Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the impresario, and the Royal Shakespeare Company ruled themselves out as buyers. The Canadian owner Ed Mirvish and his son David are selling the London playhouse for £7.5 million after spending £2.5 million restoring it. Sir Peter Hall's company has been told to vacate the theatre by December 6.

MI5 to study Israeli file

Israeli security agencies have been asked to provide MI5 with any evidence of Palestinian terrorist organisations operating from London. There were suggestions of a London link after claims by the Hamas terrorist group that it was behind last month's Jerusalem suicide bombings, in which 16 people died and 150 injured. The Foreign Office said any evidence would be thoroughly investigated.

'Braveheart' attacker held

A youth who attacked an English schoolboy because of his accent after watching the film *Braveheart*, and who had stolen £500 from his stepmother and a motorcycle to joyride, was detained for four months yesterday. Paul Rennie, 17, had kicked the terrified 15-year-old in the head after shouting "Freedom", the battlecry of his hero William Wallace.

Falklands challenge

A Falklands veteran won the right to challenge in the High Court the Army's refusal to consider his petition to have assault convictions and a two-year prison sentence overturned after the European Court of Human Rights condemned his court martial as unfair in February. Alex Findlay, 36, of Windsor, a former Scots Guard, was said to have been suffering stress when he ran amok.

Bus crash averts injury

A bus driver deliberately crashed his vehicle after its brakes failed as it headed for a crowded promenade in Bournemouth yesterday. The driver headed for a 3ft concrete bollard and smashed into it to avoid injuring anyone else. That slowed the bus but it bounced off the wall, so he then aimed his vehicle into the promenade wall. No one was injured, but the driver is being treated for shock.

Checks on Saudi nurses

Saudi Arabia has agreed to allow an independent British doctor to examine the two nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague. Relatives of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan have become increasingly concerned about their health during their long captivity. They are charged with murdering Yvonne Gilford, an Australian nurse, at the King Fahd medical complex in Dhahran.

Boat owners rescue girl

Andy Barnard and Chris Batson, two passing boat owners who saved the life of a girl badly injured by an out-of-control inflatable boat, were described as heroes by her parents. Michelle Bacon, 15, suffered multiple gashes to her face and neck after she was flung into the water and struck by the speeding inflatable's propeller after it hit an underwater obstruction at Exmouth in Devon.

BP sues Greenpeace

BP last night took legal action against Greenpeace, seeking £150,000 damages for the environmental group's occupation of the Stena Dec oil rig. If successful, the action would bankrupt Greenpeace, spokeswoman said. Four Greenpeace protesters, named in the summons, occupied the rig off the Shetland Islands for more than a week, before being evicted on Sunday by police.

Fake gun 'hero' fined

Milan Brezina, a £33,000-a-year shop manager, was fined £500 for pointing a fake gun at two shoplifters stealing £134 worth of chocolate from the Lidl store in Gateshead. But when police arrived the "hero" was arrested. In Germany, where Mr Brezina, 33, worked before, shop managers are expected to tackle thieves. He has been sacked and has found another job in Germany.

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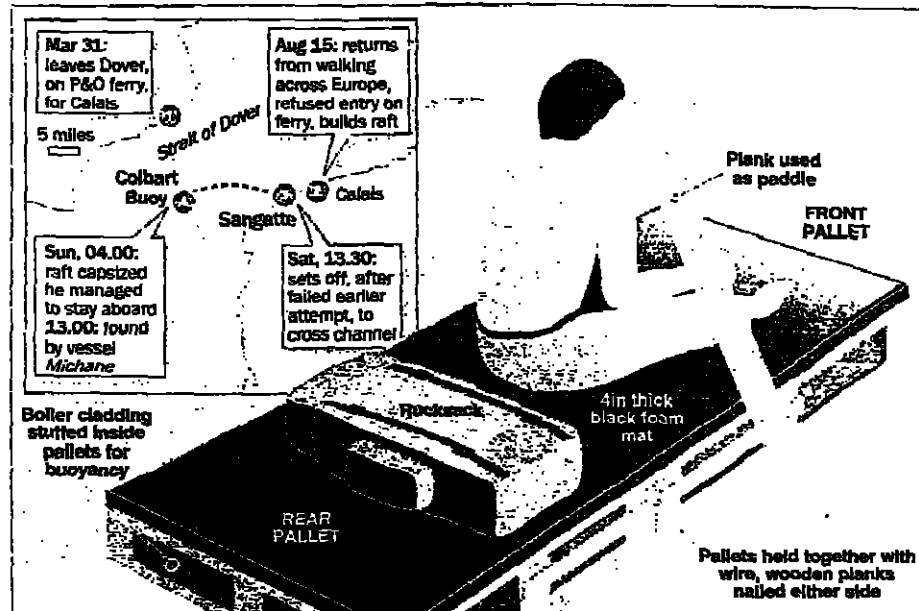
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Up the Channel without a paddle



I had no choice and no regrets, says failed job-hunter who tried to come home to Britain by makeshift raft. **Stephen Farrell reports**

THE tide of fortune turned a little yesterday for a penniless graduate who tried to cross the Channel on a makeshift raft after a failed job hunt across the length of Europe. Lawrence Tervit lost almost everything, including his paddle and four front teeth, in a collision with an oil tanker, but French coastguards were probably the first people in a long time to describe him as lucky.

Crazy, perhaps, but very lucky just to be alive.

Back in Britain last night via Le Shuttle, Mr Tervit looked back on a trip in which he had already had to walk most of the way from Poland before his Channel rescue, and said: "I don't regret it. If it hadn't been for that ship tipping me over, I would have made it."

The former Army corporal, 46, was totally unqualified for his attempted voyage at three weeks. He has never had a sailing lesson and he has been on a yacht just once. His mature degree is in social policy.

But he insisted that he had no choice in his desperation to return home after his four-

month search for work. Unable to afford to board a Calais to Dover ferry, or to persuade the ferry company to make a reverse-charges call to his home, the father-of-four from Stoneham, West Lothian, trudged a few miles further down the French coast to Sangatte.

There he fashioned a raft from materials lying by the side of the road, including two storage pallets, two planks, plastic cladding and a 4in sheet of black foam rubber.

Watched by an astonished crowd, he carried out a one-hour sea trial before taking advice on tides and pushing out on his maiden voyage at 2.30pm on Saturday, in the world's busiest shipping lane.

Asleep after 12 hours of constant paddling, he woke shortly after midnight on Sunday morning to the roar of an engine. "I heard thud, thud, thud, looked up and saw the bow of this enormous great ship heading straight for me."

"I tried to push away as fast as I could from the sharp end, but the bow wave flipped me over and I went under. I thought I was a goner. The

wave actually pushed me away from the metal, but I thought I was going to go into the propellers. All I could think about was my kids. It was damn close."

Disorientated under water, he knocked out his front four teeth on a solid object and surfaced to see the ship receding and his raft still floating—upside down, but intact. He rescued a plastic bag containing his boots and passport, but could not reach the rucksack holding his food, driving licence and pictures of his children.

Hauling himself back onto the raft, he was carried backward and forward by the tides, in and out of the shipping lanes. Hampered by the lack of a paddle and the nails protruding from the bottom, he paddled with his hands and shouted for help.

He said: "I didn't have a compass or anything like that. It was pitch black and I was freezing and soaking wet. By the time it became light again, I was absolutely shattered and thinking I should never have done it."

"I thought I wasn't going to make it. I could hear the



Some call him lucky: no job, a long walk and a Channel rescue, but Lawrence Tervit was looking across the water from Britain yesterday

foghorns of ships near by and tried hailing them but it was foggy and they couldn't see me."

He was rescued 26 hours after his voyage had begun, when two French sailors noticed him asleep on his upturned vessel in mid-Channel, 15 kilometers from the French shore. Exhausted, he had fallen asleep again around noon, to be woken by the sound of the French yacht *Michane*, which sighted him near the Colbart Buoy.

Taken aboard and given

coffee and biscuits, he was asked by the mystified two-man crew what he was doing. "I said I was trying to cross the Channel and they laughed a bit at that."

"When the French rescue vessel came half an hour later, they laughed too. So did the nurses at the hospital. The man who had given me the advice about tidal movements had called me a crazy man but I didn't have any option. I had no money and the ferry company wouldn't let me make a reverse-charges call

home. What else could I do? Desperate times call for desperate measures."

After discharging himself from Calais Hospital yesterday, he dismissed the episode as simply the final stage of an arduous trek. Increasingly rootless after the break-up of his marriage and three years unemployment after being unable to capitalise on his degree, he said he left Britain on March 31 intending to find a job in East Germany. When hitchhiking proved unsuccessful, he walked from Calais to

Belgium, then through Germany, sleeping rough in woods and fields in a sleeping bag on a plastic sheet.

Finally reaching Poland, he stayed for one day before reversing his tracks and trudging back to Calais, arriving with just 43p in German currency, 5 Belgian francs and one French franc. After *The Times* brought him home to his brother's house in Portsmouth yesterday, he said: "It's put me off Europe, but not boats. Not well-constructed ones, anyway."

Yvan Guion, assistant chairman of the Coastguard at Cap Gris Nez, said: "What he did was very, very dangerous. The English Channel at that point is the busiest route in the maritime world, with ships crossing from West to East and North to South. He could have been hit by a supertanker and no-one would have even known he was there. When we found him he was in very poor condition, dehydrated and very weak. I do not know if he is mad, but he is very lucky."

Banker survives case of the five-hour lunch

By ADRIAN LEE

A BANK chief who was allegedly so drunk that he slurred his words in front of a client and regularly took lunch breaks of several hours was unfairly dismissed from his £99,000-a-year job, an industrial tribunal ruled yesterday.

Graham McMahon's behaviour when introduced to the important Muslim customer was said to have been so embarrassing that one colleague left the dealing room.

Mr McMahon, 45, was sacked as head of the treasury department at the Gulf International Bank in December 1996. But the London tribunal decided, after ten minutes' deliberation, that correct disciplinary procedures had not been followed.

Mr McMahon, who admitted asking a colleague to cover while he took a five-hour lunch, told the hearing that long breaks were the norm in

the banking industry. The day after the incident involving the customer, he admitted being away from his desk all afternoon, but said: "As much as I hate to say it it was a regular occurrence, not just with myself but with other members of the dealing room staff. If you are out with clients it is a whole different ball game to just being out partying."

Mr McMahon, of Sevenoaks, Kent, now works for a bank in Geneva. Before his dismissal he was earning about £99,000 a year, with bonuses that could be worth more than two months' salary.

He denied being drunk in front of the bank's best customer. Steven Moulder, who now holds Mr McMahon's former post, described the incident, saying: "Graham appeared very drunk. He made embarrassing comments, vastly overselling the

bank." The next day he left for lunch at 11.30, ordering a junior to say that he had not gone out until 1pm. Andrew Pocock, the branch manager, said: "He had shown by his behaviour he couldn't be trusted to be truthful. The senior management in Bahrain thought he should be dismissed to avoid exposing the bank to any unacceptable risks."

Richard Hemmings, the tribunal chairman, said the bank had not conducted a proper inquiry, so the tribunal did not have to decide if the allegations were true.

Afterwards Mr McMahon said: "I feel vindicated. If somebody was out with a client and it got a bit protracted you can't say to them, 'I have got to be back at work, it's three o'clock.' If the client wants to be entertained, he has to be entertained."

Kitten was 'cooked' in microwave

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A MAN put a kitten into a microwave oven and turned it on after he had unsuccessfully tried to chat up the animal's owner, a court was told.

Ian Graham, prosecuting for the RSPCA at Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, yesterday said: "The effect was death by torture. Unable to escape, the cat was trapped and its internal organs were gradually cooked."

Brendan Blennerhassett, 24, of Luton, Bedfordshire, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering and jailed for six months.

Mr Graham said he put the 12-week-old kitten, Jasper, in the microwave at a late-night party in Houghton-le-Spring last August. Jasper's owner, Vicky Allen, 20, said she discovered him after hearing him banging his head on the side of the oven in agony.

Camilla 'laughs off troubles'

By EMMA WILKINS

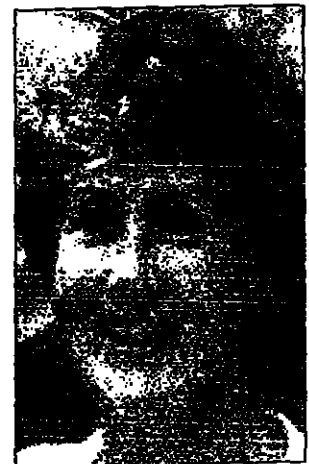
CAMILLA Parker Bowles relies on her sense of humour to cope with the strain of her relationship with the Prince of Wales, according to a close friend.

Patti Palmer-Tomkinson, who has been friends with the pair for more than 20 years, said: "It's hard being compared with a goddess, but she always sees the funny side."

"Thirteen double chins as usual, and me with my head in my handbag," she says when they print another frightful picture of her. Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson told the *New Yorker* magazine, in an extremely rare move.

After a photograph appeared under the headline "Thighgrove", Mrs Parker Bowles fell about laughing, according to another friend.

When it was said that Diana, Princess of Wales, had nicknamed her "The Rotweiler", she began answering the telephone with



Patti Palmer-Tomkinson has talked to *The New Yorker* about her friend Camilla Parker Bowles



"Hello, Rotweiler here!" the article says.

The article, by the journalist Allison Pearson, says that while the Prince is concerned about Mrs Parker Bowles' safety and deeply in love, he has no immediate plans to formalise the relationship with marriage.

"I think he would just love the world not to be mean

about her," Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson says. "It's a very courtly kind of love—a kind of chivalry. The Prince worries like mad about her."

"He says 'There's no such thing as getting it right in my position—if I left her, they'd say it was cruel and they'd be right.' He longs to do more for her and give her something of what he

has." Mrs Parker Bowles does not want to trouble the Prince with her run-ins with photographers, Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said.

"Camilla rings me from the car when the photographers are chasing her and she tells us all the dreadful things that have happened, but she never tells the Prince of Wales."

"Camilla says 'Please don't let him know about this, he'll be so upset and worried.' And I say I can't bear his not knowing and she says 'Please don't.' It's completely unselfish—maybe the way one loves a child."

The suggestion that Mrs Parker Bowles might one day become Queen was met with "You must be joking!" according to a friend, Mrs Palmer-Tomkinson said: "She's a very private person—I can't see her cutting ribbons. I've never heard them mention marriage. While they've got each other in private it's their romance, it belongs to them."

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Landlord and gasman blamed for student's death are fined

By Russell Jenkins

A LANDLORD and gas fitter blamed for the death of an English literature student at Durham University escaped with fines yesterday, although a judge said he would have sent them to prison if he had the power.

Anne Brennan, 19, died two years ago in bed at her digs in the city after breathing in carbon monoxide fumes leaking from a faulty boiler.

Judge Denis Orde previously described the house as a "veritable death trap" for the eight student occupants and a coroner recorded a verdict of unlawful killing. However, the two men could only be fined under the charges brought against them by the Health and Safety Executive.

Graham Williams, 56, of Durham, was fined £10,000 after admitting failing to ensure the boiler was properly maintained and failing to ensure the appliance was checked by an approved engineer. Edgar Maddison, the gas engineer, also of Durham, admitted a charge of failing to provide proper ventilation. He was fined £4,000. Both men were ordered to pay £2,000 in costs.

Judge Orde, passing sentence at Newcastle Crown Court, expressed his concern for the safety of students across the country and suggested that universities recommend only landlords who can prove the safety of their heating installations.

He told the two men: "If I had the power to send you to prison today that is the course I would take."

John Evans, for the prosecution, said that Ms Brennan had lain undiscovered in a ground-floor bedroom while a friend was taken to hospital after being overcome in the former bed-and-breakfast guesthouse. She died in her



Anne Brennan: CO gas seeped through floor

bed after the fumes seeped through a crack in the floorboards in her room.

Other student residents told how they suffered nausea, dizziness and flu-like symptoms after they moved into the house in September 1995.

Last year an inquest in Durham was told how the boiler had twice been condemned and closed down by technicians, only to be discovered up and running later.

Health and Safety officials said that Williams, who bought the property in 1989, had ignored two prohibition notices and had ignored other advice on ventilation in the property where Anne died in October 1995.

In sentencing, Judge Orde told the men that the students in that house were paying rent to live in a veritable death trap, a "timebomb waiting to explode".

He told Maddison that his handiwork was a recipe for disaster but added that the landlord should take the lion's share of the blame. He told Williams: "Had you ensured

that boiler was serviced on an annual basis that girl would not have lost her life. I can only assume you did not take this course because of penny pinching. If that is so it has cost this young girl her life."

Outside the court the dead girl's parents, Hugh Brennan, 60, and his wife Margaret, 59, spoke of their anger and frustration at a judicial system that allowed the men to escape charges for manslaughter which may have attracted a jail sentence.

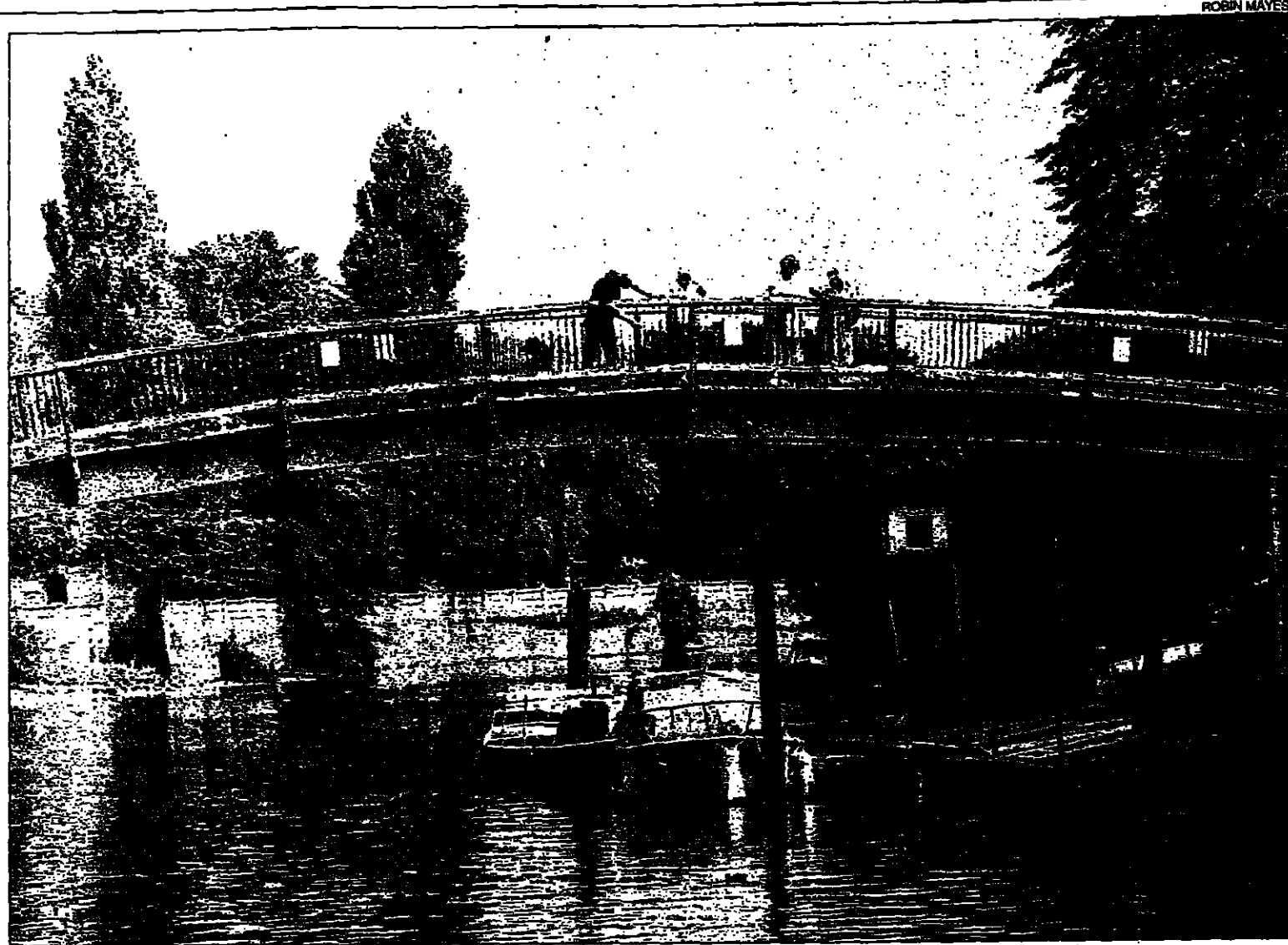
Mr Brennan, a retired teacher, said: "Those two men were responsible for Anne's death and they should have been charged accordingly. We wanted them both charged with manslaughter but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges against them."

"It has been up to the Health and Safety Executive to get them to court at all and they are escaping with a fine. How can they be fined for causing the death of a girl with her life in front of her?"

Mrs Brennan, said: "Anne was a lovely, bubbly, lively girl. She loved life and had a great gift for mixing with people. Everyone who met her felt her genuine warmth and affection. She came to stay with us on the Tuesday before she died and her last words to me were, 'I love you mum, take care of yourself.'"

The Health and Safety Commission launched a television advertising campaign last October to highlight the problem of faulty gas installations. The commission believes that each year 30 people die from gas-related carbon monoxide poisoning.

New regulations place the legal onus on landlords to give copies of records confirming that annual safety checks of gas appliances and flues in rented accommodation are carried out.



The condemned bridge that used to connect Eel Pie Islanders to the north bank of the Thames at Twickenham, southwest London

A right old mash at Eel Pie Island

1120 stranded people are dependent on a ferryman with a 14ft punt, writes Arthur Leathley

MORE than 100 residents perched on an island in the middle of the Thames will be cut off today when their only bridge is closed.

Citizens of Eel Pie Island will be forced to rely on a ferryman for the short trip to the mainland after a protracted dispute with British Gas. The tiny island at Twickenham, south-west London, which featured in Dickens' *Nicholas Nickleby*, has relied for 40 years on the slender foot bridge to link its 120 inhabitants with the outside world.

However, when workmen inadvertently drilled holes through the bridge reinforcing rods 10 years ago, the structure became increasingly unsafe.

As a result no more than three people were allowed on the 40-yard long bridge at a time, as engineers feared that even the weight of an average family could prove too great a strain.

British Gas accepted responsibility

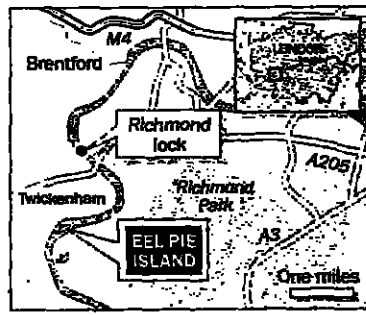
for the sub-contractors' error when gas was piped to the island. But despite a vigorous campaign by residents, it has taken no action towards building a replacement bridge.

With the closure of the bridge, an emergency ferry service is being introduced today to transport the islanders across to Twickenham.

Already the residents have become increasingly dependent on friendly boat owners to ship across heavy goods because the bridge has become increasingly shaky.

One of the island's most celebrated residents is Trevor Baylis, inventor of the clockwork radio that has revolutionised life across Africa, and he has become one of the leading voices in a vociferous campaign against the British Gas delays.

"There's no question that they have been negligent in drilling holes that have made our bridge unsafe. If I drilled holes in the British Gas



chairman's Rolls Royce, he'd be right to sue me. All we are doing is the same."

The residents' association estimate that there are 1,000 pedestrian journeys a day over the bridge, which will create something of a headache for the ferryman who can carry only six people on a 14ft punt.

Ted Leppard, whose boat servicing company on the island, Eel Pie Island Slipways, will run the on-call ferry

service, said: "There is no sense in this. It is going to cost a fortune to keep a service going for three or four months while a new temporary bridge is built."

One resident who will be more familiar with ferry journeys is 88-year-old Gladys Heath, who used to take the ferry before the bridge was built in 1956. "But obviously I was a lot younger then and I could scamper up the steps."

"Now it is going to be very difficult and we are all going to have to pull together and help each other with shopping and other everyday chores."

A spokesman for Transco, the gas pipeline operator which has taken over responsibility for the issue since the demerger of British Gas, said: "We have offered to pay £206,000 towards the repair costs which is the vast majority of the cost. We are still in discussion with residents over payment for the ferry."

High tides put South Coast homes on full flood alert

By Nick Nuttall

THOUSANDS of homes in the South and South-East have been issued with flood alerts. The Environment Agency fears that a combination of the movements of the Sun and Moon and the weather could trigger exceptionally high tides around parts of the British coast.

The agency is writing to more than 140,000 owners of vulnerable properties in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to advise them on how they can get up-to-the-minute information via services such as Teletext.

Potentially high tides could hit the region from today through to Friday. But homeowners are also being told to brace themselves from September 17 to September 20, when the agency predicts the tides could be among the fourth largest for 40 years.

Gary Lane, regional water manager for the agency, said yesterday: "While much depends on the weather conditions at the time, the predicted high tides could be a testing time for us all."

The agency currently



An impression of the ecologically sensitive foreshore scheme for the Greenwich millennium site

spends £210 million, or 40 per cent of its budget, on flood and sea defences. It is much more than in the days of the great flood of 1953 but areas remain vulnerable to flooding when certain factors come together.

David Wilkes, the flood defence manager who runs the Thames barrier, said yesterday that wind speeds and weather conditions in the Atlantic could funnel water up around the top of Scotland and down through the North Sea towards the Straits of Dover.

"You get this huge volume of water pouring into the

North Sea and as the tide comes in and out you can get this water welling up against itself." The effect could add four metres to water levels.

The South-East is also tilting into the sea by about a millimetre a year, enhancing the impact of the weather and the gravitational pull of the Moon and Sun.

The threats to the South Coast came as the Environment Agency, English Partnerships and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, launched an "ecologically friendly flood defence system

for the Millennium site at Greenwich. It is hoped the scheme will become a blueprint for river flood defences. For well over a century the style of flood defence walls along the Thames have been sheer walls of concrete or metal piles, described by Mr Prescott yesterday as an "environmental mess".

Under the new £8 million scheme, about 2,400 metres of bank around the west, east and tip of the Greenwich peninsula, is being re-engineered to help wildlife.

The existing flood defences would be cut down on the tip of the peninsula and the wall taken back 10 metres back to make a walkway and cycle route. The foreshore would then be restored.

Michelle Duke, 21, of Tiddly, near Doncaster, was forced to swim for her life when her car was suddenly submerged under rainwater as floods struck South Yorkshire. She drove her car into what she believed was a puddle under a railway bridge near Malby only to discover it was 5ft deep.

Weather, page 22

Fruit prices rise after crop fails

Bad weather has led to a shortage of peaches, reports Michael Hornsby

A DISASTROUS season for Mediterranean fruit growers, hit first by frost and then by gales, has reduced the crop by up to 60 per cent in places and will increase prices across Europe.

Prices of fresh and tinned fruit are forecast to rise by up to 30 per cent, though British shoppers will be protected to some extent by the strength of sterling. Italy, normally the source of more than 35 per cent of peaches and nectarines sold in Britain, suffered especially badly with frost in April, then gales in June.

"We have been having problems and have had to source our peaches and nectarines from elsewhere to make up for the Italian shortfall," a Safeway spokeswoman said. "This has put prices up."

Nectarines are selling for

25p each in Safeway, compared with 19p this time last year. Peaches are holding their price individually at 25p each, but a punnet of ten now costs £1.99 compared with only £1.29 a year ago.

Sainsbury's said nectarines were 29p each, up from from 25p last year, while the price of peaches, at 29p each, had not changed. "We are having to pay more for these fruit this year", a spokeswoman said, "but we are trying to hold the price down."

Walter Zanre, managing director of Mediterranean Growers, the UK subsidiary of Conserva Italia, Europe's biggest fruit processor with a £400 million turnover, said: "The supply of fruit for processing from Italy is about 60 per cent short of what we need. Our production costs have

gone up by 30 per cent, reflecting the higher prices we are having to pay farmers."

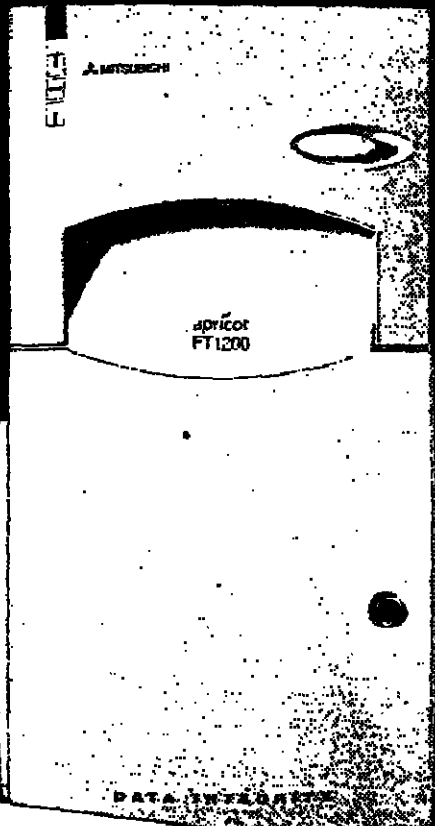
Tony Vince, a journalist with *Food News*, said: "The shortage will probably be felt mainly in markets such as Germany, which is a heavy importer and currently has a weak currency."

Last year the Italian pear crop amounted to 1.1 million tonnes, out of a European Union total of 2.6 m. This year the EU pear harvest is not expected to exceed 2 m tonnes.

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Harbour: cried in court

Woman 'accused' soldier for money

FROM MICHAEL THEODOPOULOU IN LARNACA

A WOMAN tourist allegedly attacked by five British soldiers in Cyprus broke down in tears yesterday when a defence lawyer suggested that she was prepared to see an innocent man jailed to make money from a compensation claim.

For almost two hours, Claire Harbour, 22, had been cross-examined by a lawyer defending Roger Bell, one of four British soldiers on trial accused of attacking a group of English tourists outside a nightclub in Ayia Napa.

Tassos Katsikides insisted it was Ms Harbour and her boyfriend Barry Ford who had assaulted Mr Bell outside the nightclub on August 2. Mr Katsikides suggested they had been drinking heavily.

Mr Katsikides claimed that Miss Harbour was worried only about the £25,000 damages she was claiming. Mr Ford, who needed 22 stitches in face and head wounds, and Shane Bell, 23, a friend whose jaw was broken in the incident, are claiming similar amounts. Miss Harbour denied Mr Katsikides's allegation.

In a separate civil action, Ms Harbour and the others have each filed for £29,000 in damages and compensation from Mr Bell, Steven Wolstencroft, 26, Steven Girvan and Tim Carter, both 20, who are all serving with the 1st Battalion, The King's Regiment. The trial continues.

A fifth soldier who was arrested four days after the others will be tried separately.

Remains of 8th century palace found on banks of Thames

Timbers at Chelsea could be those of the fortified home of King Offa of Mercia, Nick Nuttall reports

THE remains of an Anglo-Saxon palace, which could be that of the powerful Mercian ruler Offa, have been discovered on the banks of the Thames.

Archaeologists found the wooden remains on the fore-shore at Chelsea on a site now used as a mooring point for houseboats. Rachel Hill of the Environment Agency, which is funding the excavations, said that English Heritage had carbon-dated the timbers to the 8th century.

"We knew the timbers were old. There is documentary evidence that Offa had a palace around here and the dates just tie in," she said yesterday.

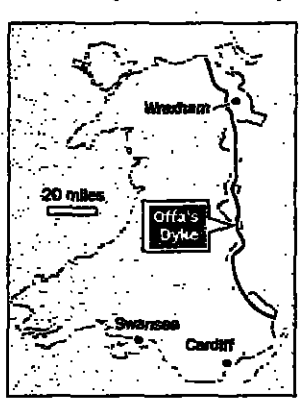
The discovery follows a series of other finds by the agency, including what is claimed to have been the jetty on the Thames where Sir Walter Raleigh laid down his cloak for Queen Elizabeth I.

However, the remains found at Chelsea are presenting the researchers with a serious conservation problem. Dr Hill said that the timbers' exposure meant that they were in danger of drying out and decaying. But under current laws they had no power to put a preservation order on them. The problem applies to all finds being made under the three-year Thames Archaeological Survey, ranging from Bronze Age and Tudor jetties to medieval fish traps. The archaeologists are trying to negotiate with the house-

boat owners so that the boats are not moved on the low tide, which might damage the relics before the site has been fully excavated.

Sam Newton, an archaeologist and lecturer at the University of East Anglia, and authority on Beowulf, the Anglo-Saxon poem, said: "Offa was high King of all England, and London was an important place at that time. It is a fair presumption he had a palace there."

The find, made by the agency, University College London, English Heritage and the Museum of London, could be one of the most spectacular from this period. Remains of what is believed to be a royal palace from the first half of the seventh century have already been unearthed at Yeawering, Northumberland, and an important building from the sixth to the seventh century period found at Cowdrey's Down, Hamp-



shire. But the discovery at Chelsea, made possible because it is one of the few areas left along the Thames in central London which has not been built over for flood defences, could rank as the most important.

Dr Hill said they were still busily documenting the finds, but they had found "30 metres of stakes, which were the line of defence, with the palace behind this".

Heinrich Härke, of the archaeology department at Reading University and an expert on the Anglo-Saxon period, said it was likely that the main palace would be about 27 metres long, built of timber and resembling a large barn. It was possible that there would have been a separate wing for women. "All the social life would go on around the fire. They would curl up and sleep around the fire," he said.

The discovery could shed new light on Offa, who ruled from AD 757 to AD 796 and was overlord of all England south of the Humber. He died in AD 796. The best surviving tribute to his power is Offa's Dyke, the earthworks along the Welsh border. During his reign, England achieved the greatest political unity that was seen during the Anglo-Saxon period. Dr Härke said that Offa was also responsible for introducing the silver penny, which boosted trade in the 8th century.



Offa, King of Mercia, ruled all England south of the Humber from AD 757 to AD 797

'Poetic' stalker told not to harrass ex-lover

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A LOVE-SICK stalker who sent threatening poems to his travel agent mistress after she ended their affair was yesterday ordered to stay away from her.

In a judgment said to be the first of its kind in Scotland, Sheriff Terence Russell granted a non-harassment order barring David Mackenzie, 41, from contacting 33-year-old Hazel Koerner.

Mackenzie, an engineer, wrote letters in the form of poems, telling Miss Koerner he would tamper with the brakes on her car. He also threatened to hold a knife to her face. The married father-of-one also sent her a list of phone numbers for hospitals and funeral parlours in the area and told her she would need to use them.

He later told the police: "I wanted her to realise she can't mess up other people's lives. I wanted her to accept responsibility. I was just trying to scare her."

At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court, Mackenzie, of Irvine, admitted five charges of sending messages to Miss Koerner at Going Places travel agents in Main Street, Largs, and placing her in a state of fear and alarm between January and February this year.

He also admitted three charges of vandalising her B-registered car last November and December by slashing a tyre, scratching the paintwork and smashing a headlight.

Sheriff Russell ordered Mackenzie to carry out 200 hours of community service, and told him to pay his former lover £200 compensation.

The court was told that Mackenzie's hate campaign began after Miss Koerner ended their relationship last November. At the same time Mackenzie, a project engineer with West of Scotland Water, told his wife of 18 years about his affair and she told him their marriage was over. Glenn Davis, for the defence, said: "Mr Mackenzie married his wife in 1979 and his marriage was quite happy until November 1995 when he embarked on an affair with this lady."

Rape suspect's lawyer blames identity video

BY KATHERINE KNIGHT

A SUSPECTED rapist was picked out in an identity parade only because everyone else in the video lineup was wearing make-up and a wig, a court was told yesterday.

Andrew Whyte, a Rastafarian with long dreadlocks, was the only man with his own hair.

Police had been unable to find anyone who looked like Mr Whyte

and so had filmed individually a dozen men wearing hairpieces and make-up.

Mr Whyte, 34, of Gloucester, who denies two charges of rape, one of indecent assault and one of false imprisonment, had been picked out from a five-minute identity video by his two alleged victims, Sally O'Neill, for the defence, told Bristol Crown Court. But, she said, it was obvious which one of the 12 was the defen-

dant. "The people on that video were all wearing wigs — there isn't one single person there who had a natural head of dreadlocks apart from the defendant," she told the court.

Inspector John Chandler, now retired, who organised the identity parade in Gloucester, told the court that he had tried his best to get a normal identity parade together but had been unable to find any volunteers, despite telephone calls to other

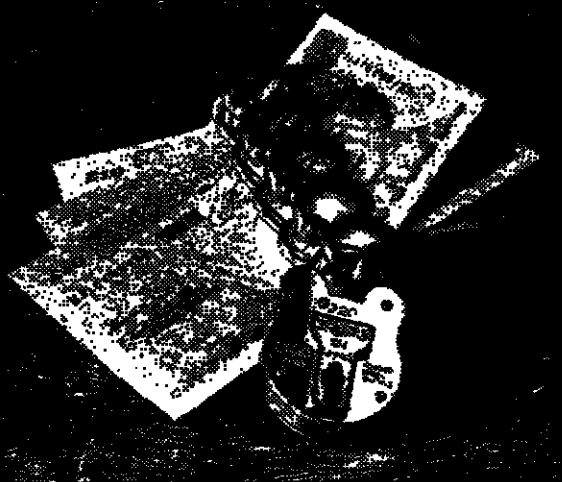
forces. "The situation is that Rastafarian-type persons do not wish to co-operate with the police," he said.

Instead, he decided to film Mr Whyte secretly and then add another 12 people to the video. "I arranged for a make-up artist to come to Gloucester police station and also for a number of black persons so we could film them in the same circumstances as we had filmed Mr Whyte earlier. We arranged wigs for the volun-

teers." The situation is that Mr Whyte's two alleged victims had both broken down when they saw Mr Whyte on the tape.

The jury had been told that Mr Whyte, 34, broke into the homes of two women in May last year. He allegedly repeatedly raped a 36-year-old nurse and then, 24 hours later, indecently assaulted another woman, whom he held hostage in her own home. The trial continues.

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Mental athletes tone their bodies to keep their minds in shape



Dominic O'Brien, the world memory champion. Fitness programme, pasta diet and help from Diana and Dodi allow memory champion to exercise grey cells, reports Mark Henderson

BRAINBOXES no longer have sand kicked in their faces. Competitors at the Mind Sports Olympiad employ rigorous physical training techniques as they strive to beat their cerebral rivals.

Memory champions and chess and draughts players said yesterday that they ran, swam and cycled hundreds of miles each year to improve their aerobic fitness as well as harnessing science to increase their mental agility.

The Olympiad, which started at the Royal Festival in London yesterday, features 36 mind sports. It has a total prize fund of £100,000.

Dominic O'Brien, 40, the world memory champion from Barley, Hertfordshire, who can memorise a pack of cards in 32.8 seconds, followed a two-month training programme for his event, which begins on Thursday. He runs four miles a day, drinks no alcohol for six weeks before a tournament and eats lots of pasta and other carbohydrates to keep his blood sugar high at competition time.

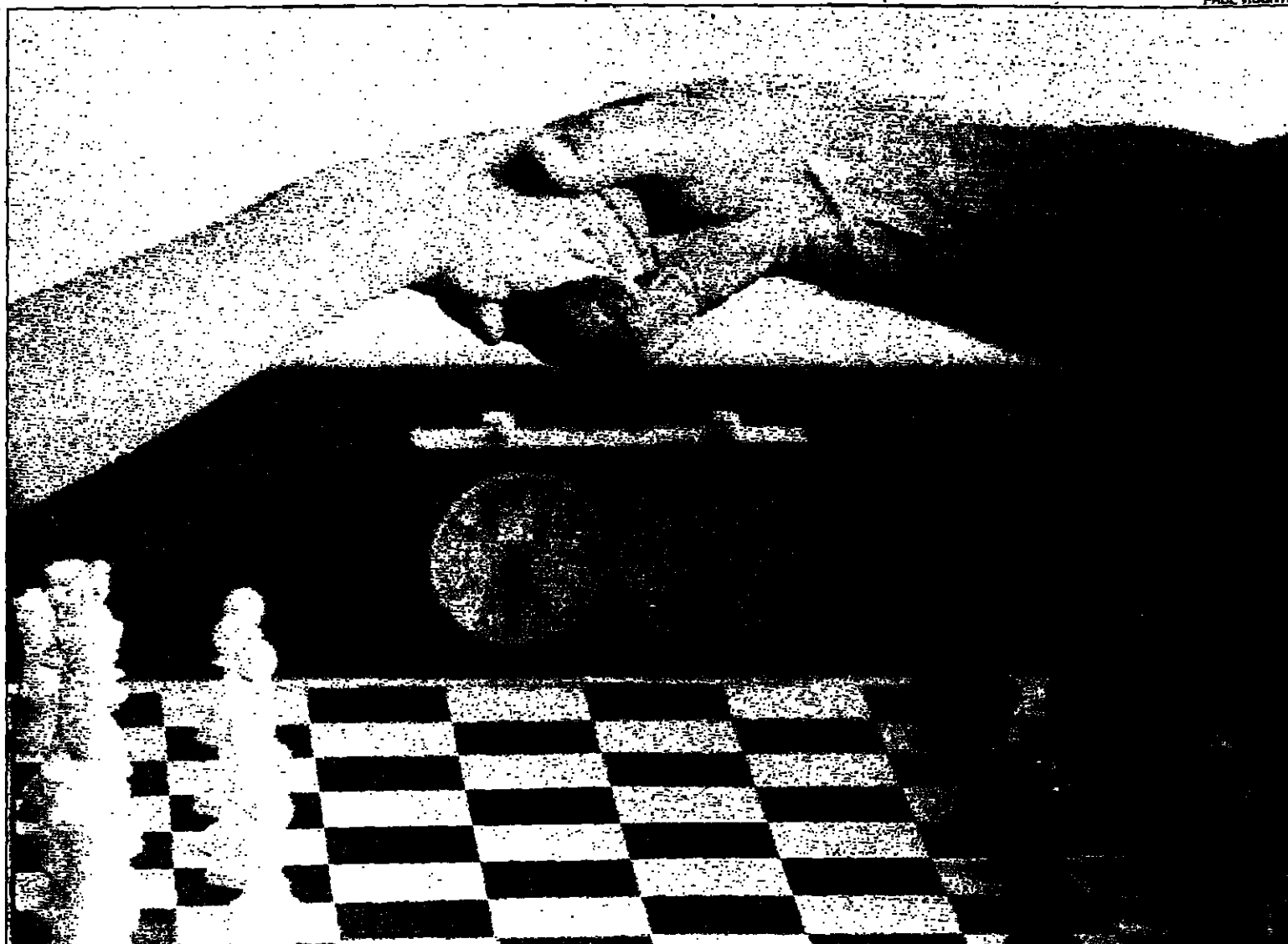
He also takes regular doses

of ginkgo biloba, a Chinese herb said to improve circulation by dilating the blood vessels, practises the trance-like state in which he performs his astonishing mnemonic feats, and has regular brain scans to check that each part of his brain is performing to its potential.

"It's crucial to maintain your body in peak condition and exercise the mind," he said. "I have a mnemonic system which needs practice, and I also work at lowering my brain activity to the optimum concentration level."

He uses a system of associating people and places with numbers and cards. The number ten is Dudley Moore, because he starred in the film *Ten*. 99 is Mr Whippy, the queen of hearts is Diana, Princess of Wales — and the knave of diamonds is now Dodi Fayed.

In competition, Mr O'Brien lowers his brain activity rate to between five and seven hertz, the equivalent of most people when dreaming. This allows a higher degree of concentration which enables him to remember sequences



William Faulks, 5, the youngest competitor, shaking hands with Sir Brian Tobey, one of the Olympiad organisers, before a warm-up game yesterday

of up to 1,400 cards or numbers. Normal brain activity is 12 to 14 hertz.

Ron King, 40, from Barbados, who has held the world draughts title for ten years, is a teetotaler who follows a meat-free diet and a fitness programme. "I run marathons and play five-set tennis matches for stamina, and dive to improve concentration," he said. "Diving is about poise and balance and requires the same sort of mental rigour as competition draughts."

Chess players also use fitness training and psychology.

Garry Kasparov employs the same sports psychologist as the pole vaulter Sergey Bubka. Kasparov famously ground down Anatoly Karpov, his world title opponent in 1984-85, by tiring him out with a string of draws before pounding on a drained opponent who had lost 30lb.

Matthew Sadler, 23, the British No 2 who is ranked 16 in the world, said his game took off after he started to take psychological and mental training seriously. "I began to follow the grandmaster Julian Hodgson, who was never a

great technical player but who thought about his opponents' weaknesses," he said. "I got fitter and trained my mind to play the man as well as the game."

He eats bananas to keep his blood sugar high during six-hour games, and drinks isotonic drinks in hot conditions. Before a tournament in Armenia, he learnt the language and ate nothing but Armenian food to acclimatise.

Tony Buzan, one of the organisers of the Olympiad, who has written many books on mental training, said that

competition mind sports required the same intensity as many physical sports. "Mind athletes are athletes, every bit as much as runners," he said. "There are two key aspects, aerobic and mental fitness."

The brain uses 40 per cent of the body's oxygen, and a strong body promotes brain activity. Then you can train your mind, as all the great thinkers, like Leonardo de Vinci and Einstein, did.

Imagination, he added, could do for a mind what weight training could do for a body. "Watch a vase of flow-

ers, concentrate on every detail, then close your eyes and imagine it," he advised. "You can keep repeating it until you find it hard to tell the difference between the real image and the imagined one. Mind-training techniques like that can open up a new sphere of mental fitness."

The Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes *The Times* Crossword Championship, is sponsored by the Insurance group Skandia and supported by *The Times*.

Chess and Bridge, page 38

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dog judge jailed for starving his terrier

A dog show judge was jailed for three months and banned from keeping animals for life yesterday for letting his border terrier, Oscar, starve to death in his garage. Raymond Gough, 40, from Braintree, Essex, a judge with the South West Essex Canine Association, had been convicted after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. His two other border terriers have been found new homes. David Whipp, for the RSPCA, told Braintree Magistrates Court that Mr Gough's former wife broke into the garage last November and found Oscar lying in a covered cage. The dog, half its normal weight, was lying next to three empty food bowls and had been dead for some days.

Cashier jailed

Susan Woodard, 40, who had worked for 23 years as a cashier at Barclays Bank, Pontypool, Torfaen, transferred almost £29,000 over two years from the account of a retired engineer to her own before being noticed. Newport Crown Court jailed Woodard, a mother of three, for 15 months. She told police she had stolen the money to pay off family debts.

Identity cards

Four out of five young people support the introduction of compulsory identity cards for teenagers, according to an NOP survey. Three-quarters of adults mentioned believed ID cards should be issued to everyone in Britain. Support for the cards was highest among the over-55s, at 83 per cent. Overall, four out of five said ID cards would help to prevent under-age drinking.

Boxer bereaved

The boxer Herbie Hide was said to be devastated after his ten-year-old brother Alan died from leukaemia. Hide, said his brother, who was diagnosed with the condition four years ago, was a motivating factor behind his career when he regained the WBO heavyweight title in June. Hide is to appear before Norwich magistrates next month accused of assault.

Beggar guilty

A Covent Garden street beggar who killed an Australian backpacker after he refused to give him money was jailed for three years. An Old Bailey jury found Peter McCaffery, 24, who now lives near Renfrew in Scotland, guilty of the manslaughter of Robert Nankervis, 24, of Melbourne, who died in hospital 15 days after a single punch to the face in January this year.

£630,000 D-type

A 1956 D-type Jaguar found in a barn in Connecticut and unused for 16 years was sold for £630,124 at a Christie's car auction at Pebble Beach, Northern California. It cost £3,878 when new. D-types won the Le Mans 24-hour race for three consecutive years between 1955-57. Chassis number XKD 557, never raced, was sold as "one of the best preserved in the world".

CORRECTIONS

In 1996-97 1.2 million people visited Windsor Castle, not half a million, as wrongly printed in the letter from Dickie Arbiter (August 15). Mr Ralph Blumenthal's letter (August 16) should have referred to dogmatic thinkers who use the utmost ingenuity in their arguments (not integrity, as printed).

Letters, page 17

Nature may not know best in heated debate

THE old concept that "nature knows best", and that parents and doctors should not always try to bring down a child's fever, has been revived by Ivan Blumenthal, a consultant paediatrician in Oldham, Lancashire, writing in the journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

The rationale for not reducing a high temperature is that it is the body's response to infection: the fever provides an environment that is inhospitable to the marauding organisms, and so checks their growth.

However, the argument that the body's response to an infection is always to the advantage of the patient is hard to sustain. The terrible haemorrhages induced by the toxin of the meningococcal bacterium can kill within hours, or leave a child crippled. Likewise, the pneumonia that is a feature of some serious cases of measles can result in permanent lung damage.

Up to 4 per cent of children are liable to suffer febrile convulsions if their temperature rises above 38.5°C (101.3°F). They may occur as a brief single incident, the so-called

febrile seizure, can be repeated throughout the day, or any one attack may be prolonged. If the child suffers more than one incident in 24 hours, or any individual attack lasts for more than 15 minutes, the seizure is classified as a complicated febrile convulsion, which has more serious implications.

The overwhelming majority of infantile febrile convulsions cause no lasting damage, but in a small proportion the child may subsequently have febrile convulsions each time he or she has a high temperature, or will develop epilepsy in later life. It is not certain whether the fever merely uncovers a pre-existing tendency to epilepsy.

However, if my grandchild was running a high temperature I would rather not take the chance, when the correct

dose of paracetamol would make him more comfortable, happier and encourage a restful sleep.

Most febrile convulsions are seen in children between the ages of three months and five years in this age group and until late adolescence, aspirin is not given to reduce a temperature as it is one of the known causes of Reye's syndrome. This is a rare reaction to infection from various viruses, including flu, and fungal infections as well as to the aspirin group of drugs. In susceptible patients this leads to destruction of the liver, kidney, heart and brain through fatty infiltration. The death rate is high — about 20 per cent — and another 30 per cent are left permanently damaged.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Letters, page 17

Pop goes anarchy as band cashes in

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AN anarchist pop group made up of squatters and punk rockers has committed the ultimate sell-out by reaching number two in the UK charts.

To their bemusement the members of Chumbawamba, which opposes the commercialisation of rock music and satirised Live Aid with an album entitled *Pictures of Starving Children Sell Records*, have become overnight stars.

The eight band members live in a squat in Leeds and have never had a hit record in their 13-year history. But they have now signed a record deal with EMI in Germany after years with independent record labels, and an album is immi-

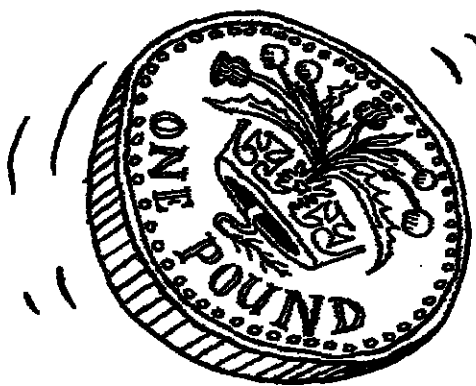
nent. Their success came after the Radio 1 disc jockey Simon Mayo made their single, *Tubthumping*, his record of the week. The song extols the virtues of drinking whisky, cider and lager and features swearing in its chorus.

It is only recently that the group was campaigning against new Labour and also subverted the Leah Betts "Sorted" anti-drug poster with their own postcard, captioned "Distorted". Yesterday the band's members insisted they were still anarchists. Singer Alice Nutter said: "We still carry the idea we had 12 years ago that no-one should have to go to work 40 hours a week and do a crap job."

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Study counsels caution on a cure-all for life's ills

Some problems cannot be resolved by just 'getting it all out of your system', reports Nigel Hawkes

COUNSELLING, the 1990s remedy for life's problems, is ineffective when used on its own to help those at risk of depression or other mental illness.

The conclusion, reached by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination at the University of York, will come as unwelcome news to the growing army of counsellors, now believed to run into tens of thousands.

No disaster is complete until those involved have been offered counselling, a technique which involves sharing worries by talking them through. The bereaved, the unemployed, the divorced and children from disadvantaged

backgrounds are all considered to be at high risk of suffering long-term damage unless it can be averted by counselling.

But the study by the York centre concludes that "counselling by itself has not been shown to produce sustained benefit in a variety of groups at risk". Among women who have had a miscarriage, for example, none of the three trials into the effectiveness of counselling showed a sustained effect.

The same was true of bereavement counselling. The report says

it showed no effect on "quality of life, satisfaction or frustration levels in people close to deceased cancer patients", and no difference in depression among spouses of people who had committed suicide.

"There has been a rapid growth in the employment of counsellors, particularly within primary care," the report concludes. "However, there is little evidence that generic counselling, provided by itself, is particularly effective. More attention needs to be given to the content and effectiveness of specific

forms of counselling and the skills of counsellors before this approach is extended too widely."

The York centre was set up with government money to provide independent advice on different treatments. It does so by reviewing the literature, not by conducting its own research. In this case, it has reviewed all the available studies of the effectiveness of various forms of counselling in helping people with mental health problems.

Mary Turner-Boulton, editor of the bulletin in which the findings

appeared, said yesterday: "There is a great shortage of research evidence in this field, but what there is fails to show that counselling in general is effective. But we did find that specific sorts of counselling, in particular cognitive behavioural therapy, can have good results."

A spokesman for the British Association for Counselling said that she thought the conclusions were rather sweeping: "We have never claimed that counselling by itself is a panacea for everybody," she said. "But we find that GPs

are extremely satisfied by the effectiveness of counselling used in conjunction with other treatments, such as drugs for example." The association's directory of counsellors in private practice lists 2,500 names, up from 800 in 1988.

About 60 per cent of GP surgeries now employ counsellors, with two thirds of their salaries paid by the NHS. Nobody knows how many counsellors there are, but membership of the association is more than 15,000. Many counsellors have set

themselves up with little or no qualifications, and competence varies widely.

"This is a terribly difficult area in which to conduct research," the association spokesman said. "Often only the patients and the counsellors know what has gone on, and patients are usually reluctant to talk about it. Are they happier? Can they cope better?"

Ms Turner-Boulton says: "This is such a burgeoning field, with such a proliferation of counsellors, that it is important to try to measure how successful it is. We are not saying that counselling is useless, but that there is no evidence to demonstrate that it is effective."

Miners who put paid to Scargill say pit closure is a betrayal

Union feud will hit job prospects, writes Peter Foster

MINERS who were enticed to one of the country's biggest privatised pits after the 1984-85 strike by the promise of long-term work were feeling bitter and cheated yesterday when it was announced that the mine would close.

Asfordby A Mine, in Leicestershire, which employs nearly 500 miners, ceased production after its owner, RJB Mining, declared it unsafe and uneconomic. One despondent worker said yesterday: "I swallowed the Asfordby dream pill. Now I have been left with nothing."

Miners spent their last shift doing routine maintenance work before clocking off and returning home to discuss their futures with wives and families. Martin Hine, 35, who made tunnels in the rock, said he was typical of the workforce: "I came here and bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support."

"I shall have to get work at another pit if I can. The only jobs around here are at a cheese factory, and I would have to start at the bottom on half the money. I am too old for that."

The Asfordby miners are known in the industry as "gypsies", because of the number of times they have moved to find work. RJB Mining promised yesterday that a

large proportion would be offered work in other pits, but said there would be some compulsory redundancies.

Those who accept redundancy will receive approximately £900 for each year they have worked in the coal industry. One Asfordby worker said he would take the offer because he feared being made redundant again later: "If I move to another pit now I could find myself on state redundancy payments in three or four years' time."

Neil Groatorex, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, which represents the majority of Asfordby workers, said he was sure that the closure would be followed

I bought a large house on the promise of a job for life. I have a mortgage and two children to support

by others. This was denied by Bill Rowell, managing director for deep mines at RJB, who said: "We have no plans to shut other pits."

The job prospects of the Asfordby workers will not be

helped by the still-bitter feud between the UDM and the National Union of Mineworkers, dating from the 1984-85 strike. UDM members said they would not be able to accept work in Yorkshire pits such as Maltby. "We can't go up there because we'd get kicked in," said one, who asked not to be named. "Underground you have to trust your mates to survive. Working with NUM lads you couldn't do that."

Asfordby was bought by RJB as part of an £815 million package when British Coal was privatised in 1984. The pit has lost £35 million in the past two years.

The UDM accused the company of a deliberate ploy to close the mine and insisted that it was still viable. Some commentators said it was a tactical move to put pressure on the Government to help the coal industry as it faces the renegotiation of its five-year supply contracts with the power generating companies next spring. It fears that competition from natural gas will lead to smaller contracts.

However, a senior source at RJB said: "This closure was strictly about economic viability and safety. We've had the best engineers and technicians working at Asfordby, but it just isn't safe or economic to keep extracting the coal. If we can't do it, nobody can."



The last day for miners at Asfordby A pit. Many of the 500 workers will be offered work at other mines, but some will be made redundant

Mr Groatorex said: "There are areas of coal that are economic, but the management have given us no alternatives. They are stripping equipment out of the mine on Monday, which will make it even harder for us to find someone to buy the pit."

The union said that it was in talks with another, unnamed, mining company to discuss the prospects of buying Asfordby. Mr Groatorex added that he had written to Tony Blair and John Prescott to ask for help to save the mine: "The Tories threw away the miners and their industry and the Labour Party used this as propaganda to get elected. If Mr Blair doesn't do something to put

this right, the coal industry will be at death's door."

RJB said that the technical problems at the pit had been caused by beds of hard rock above the coal seam putting

pressure on the workforce and causing cave-ins and flooding. After attempting to mine a 250-metre face, the company switched to smaller, 60-metre sections 18 months ago in an

effort to overcome the difficulties. This was successful, but when they attempted to mine a 120-metre section, flooding and cave-ins occurred. Earlier this month the company was

forced to abandon the section, leaving more than 15 million of equipment at the face.

Contract fight, page 23
Tarnished crown, page 27

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Offer also applies to spouses

Detectives target a plague of fraudsters

By Shirley English

ELEVEN police forces in Scotland and northern England yesterday launched their biggest crackdown on fraudsters and sneak thieves who prey on the elderly.

Bogus callers swindle an estimated £1 million a year from unsuspecting households. All eight Scottish police forces, together with Cumbria Constabulary, Northumbria Police and British Transport Police, have teamed up for Operation Hamelin.

The initiative, which will use the theme of the Pied Piper and the slogan "If you smell a rat... keep it out", is being led by Strathclyde Police, Scotland's largest force. Around 5,000 crimes by confidence tricksters and bogus callers take place in Scotland each year, but police believe up to 50 per cent of crimes go unreported.

Most victims are over 70, while the fraudsters can be as young as ten. Crimes can vary from a few pence taken by a bogus charity collector to thousands of pounds charged by door-to-door "tradesmen".

Operation Hamelin has been divided into three phases. For the first phase the 11 forces spent July collating information on criminal movements across force boundaries. The shared information contributed to the arrest of 48 suspected criminals during the "enforcement" phase, earlier this month. The third phase, launched yesterday, is intended to raise public awareness with leaflets and posters.

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Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex, who ended their holiday early after the attack

Father and son held by gunmen in Florida hotel room

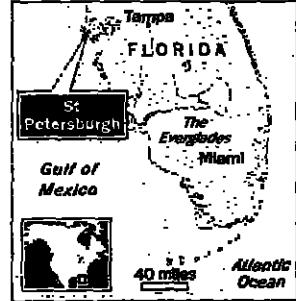
By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged nine and his father have been attacked and tied up in their hotel room in Florida by two armed robbers.

Gordon Mitchell and his son Alex had just left their room in the Howard Johnson Hotel on St Pete's Beach, St Petersburg, when they were confronted by the two men. "One stopped Alex from running ahead and the other pulled out an automatic pistol and said 'Get back in your room,'" said Mr Mitchell, 40, a sales director from Newcastle upon Tyne.

"I was so nervous it took five attempts to open the door. Then one of the men took the key, opened it and pushed us inside. He made us lie face down on the floor and tied our wrists behind us. They demanded jewellery and money and took my watch and about £250 from my wife and daughter's holiday money. The gunmen got frustrated that there wasn't anything else and he gave the weapon to his friend and said 'Shoot anyone who comes in the door.'"

Mr Mitchell's wife Lynne, 39, and their other children Kirsty, 16, and Andrew, 14, were in the hotel restaurant.



The Mitchells arranged to be flown home a week earlier than planned. They are claiming the entire cost of their holiday from Unijet, the tour operator.

Rex Huskey, the hotel's manager, said: "We could not find them another room in the hotel on the night that incident happened but switched them to another property along the street. The next day we gave them one of our best executive rooms but they claimed we were trying to keep them away from other guests." Mr

Mitchell, however, said that the hotel wanted to "play the whole thing down" and said they should have warned other guests.

More than 1.3 million Britons will visit Florida this year, and 442,000 of them will go to St Petersburg. This is the first reported case of an attack on British tourists in the town.

A couple who paid more than £2,000 for a package holiday for themselves and two children in Majorca were given the keys to a converted lock-up garage rather than the comfortable apartment they expected.

Complaints at the site failed to find a solution and Mary Brisley, 43, Andrew Oakley, 35, and two girls aged 11 spent four days in the windowless garage instead of what the brochure had described as "an attractive apartment set in a secluded location with a high standard of comfort and friendly service".

They are claiming compensation from the tour operator Sunjet and the travel agents Lunn Poly.

THE WHITEHALL REVOLUTION

Department of Social Security

Harman sees work as best form of welfare

Blair's team at Social Security is breaking with the past, writes Alexandra Frean

THE litmus test of the radicalism of Tony Blair's Government will be how it tackles the welfare state and the growing £90 billion social security bill.

Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and Frank Field, her deputy, have been told to take on what is seen as the culture of welfare dependency in Britain. Previous Labour governments have sought to increase benefits. This Prime Minister says that he wants to cut benefit bills, by getting people into work, and use the savings on education.

Ms Harman has an internal party battle on her hands, with several Labour MPs angered by her decision to go ahead with the Tory Government's plan to cut benefits for lone parents by £11 a week. Even the Government's advisers, the Social Security Advisory Committee, said that it should at least be deferred.

The appointment as Minister of State for Welfare Reform of Mr Field, in the past dismissed by some as a maverick but respected by others as an original thinker, showed Mr Blair's determination to bring spending under control. For years, Mr Field preached the gospel of welfare reform from the back benches and as chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Social Security. Untrammelled by front-bench responsibilities, he advocated measures such as compulsory savings for a second pension, a new form of National Insurance and a remodelled income support system.

John Denham, a junior minister, is heading the pensions review, but Mr Field is bound to have a significant input.

Ms Harman's presentation skills are likely to be an important asset as she sets out

to get the provision of childcare incorporated into Labour's long-term economic and employment strategy. There are now one million lone mothers bringing up two million children dependent on benefit at a cost of £10 billion a year, she says, "and we have to do something about it".

Ms Harman's belief in the work ethic is also reflected in the announcement that the Government is to spend £200 million on the training of people on disability and sickness benefit to help them to find jobs. The official line is that this is a way of bringing back into the mainstream those marginalised by society. The implication of policies such as these, however, is that whatever benefit you are on, the department will seek some way to get you into work.

Ms Harman believes that much money is wasted by inefficiency in benefits agencies and the caring services. She also wants to review the way in which some services are paid for centrally but supplied locally. As with other of her reforms, this will require a great deal of co-operation between departments.

Ms Harman's hope that the Government has put childcare on a par with other essential parts of the economic infrastructure may prove over-optimistic. But there is no doubt that her views reflect a pronounced departure from that of previous administrations.

Ms Harman has long championed the cause of Britain's lone mothers. While in Opposition, she campaigned

Depart of Social Security

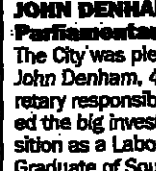
HARRIET HARMAN: Secretary of State for Social Security

Aged 47. The most telegenic member of the Cabinet. Her presentational skills and her utter loyalty to Labour's modernisation project have also ensured her place at the top table. But she has enemies within the party who doubt her intellectual skills and will still not forgive her for sending her son to a grammar school.



FRANK FIELD: Minister for Welfare Reform

As a backbencher, Frank Field, 55, Minister for Welfare Reform, was a virtual one-man policy unit, coming up with visionary ideas for reducing welfare dependency. Formerly chairman of Commons Select Committee on Social Security. Formerly head of the Child Poverty Action Group and the Low Pay Unit, he is concerned that welfare reforms do not harm the long-term ill or the elderly. Educated at Hull University.



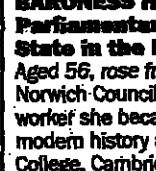
JOHN DENHAM: Parliamentary Under Secretary

The City was pleased with the appointment of John Denham, 44, the Parliamentary Under Secretary responsible for pensions, as he had courted the big investment institutions whilst in opposition as a Labour spokesman on social security. Graduate of Southampton University, he previously worked for Friends of the Earth, British Youth Council and War on Want.



KEITH BRADLEY: Parliamentary Under Secretary

As a "hard left" Manchester City Councillor in the 80s, Keith Bradley, 47, Parliamentary Under Secretary for income-related benefits, poverty, recovery of benefits and green issues, supported motions to send cash to striking miners. Educated at Aston University, Manchester Polytechnic and York University.



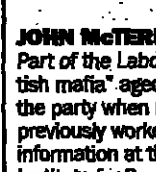
BARONESS HOLLIS OF HEIGHAM: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Lords

Aged 56, rose from prominence as leader of Norwich Council. The daughter of a farmer, she became a senior lecturer in modern history after graduating from Girton College, Cambridge and Nuffield College, Oxford. She led the onslaught on last year's Divorce Bill to ensure that divorcing women could take a slice of their ex-husbands' pensions.



ANN BOWTELL: Permanent Secretary

Aged 59, educated at Girton College, Cambridge. Ms Bowtell has spent most of her civil service career in the Department of Social Security, which replaced the National Assistance Board, which she joined as a graduate trainee in 1960.



LIZ KENDALL: Special Adviser

Aged 26. A Cambridge graduate, worked for the Institute for Public Policy Research before joining Harriet Harman's team in opposition. Tends to concentrate on women's issues especially lone mothers.

The In-Tray

Introducing a national childcare strategy. The Government has already earmarked £150 million of National Lottery money for the creation of a network of "out of school" clubs, to provide child care in the evenings and school holidays. A further £200 million has been allocated to training to help single mothers find jobs.

The department has already taken action on service delivery with the publication last month of the Social Security Bill, which aims to cut red tape, reduce benefit and tax loopholes and introduce a highly sophisticated information technology system.

Ms Harman has ordered the Child Support Agency to attack its backlog of cases and to complete an extra 500,000 assessments by the end of the year.

Labour's comprehensive pensions review, launched last month, aims to supplement state provision with private-sector funding and to encourage people to make their own provision for their old age. Plans for a new "stakeholder pension" are already the subject of extensive consultation with the City and with user groups.

Other ways of supplementing state provision could include the setting up of new institutions to offer benefits to individuals, based on the concept of "mutuality". Friendly societies or trade unions could offer individuals insurance to cover sickness, unemployment or long-term care.

Clamping down on benefit fraud will be a high priority. The department is likely to toughen sanctions for benefit cheats. It has already backed a crack fraud-busting hit-squad in London, called LOFIT, launched last week to track down housing benefit fraud.

Housing benefit, which currently costs £12 billion a year, is likely to be one of the first areas targeted by the department's comprehensive spending review. Under present rules it can act as a disincentive to many unemployed people getting jobs.

The department is working jointly with the Treasury and the Inland Revenue to review the potential for integrating the tax and benefit systems into a single system and to introduce tax breaks which encourage unemployed and low-paid people to work.

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Survival of deer 'depends on hunt'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

DEER hunters mounted a new challenge in the High Court yesterday to the National Trust's ban on the use of its land for the sport, arguing that wild red deer could disappear outside Scotland if hunting were stopped.

Counsel for members of the Devon and Somerset Stag-hounds, the Quantock Stag-hounds and tenant farmers told Mr Justice Robert Walker that when there had been no hunting in the area the red deer herd, now about 2,500 strong, had dwindled to 60 animals because of poaching and the farmers' right to shoot deer feeding on their crops.

The only reason landowners were prepared to tolerate the deer and the damage they did, he said, was because the animals provided quarry for a sport that was estimated to bring £4 million a year into the local economy.

The National Trust ban has caused very considerable anger and concern in the West Country, not only among landowners and farmers on trust land but concern among scientists and animal conservationists who fear it will lead to an end to the protection of the red deer herds. They believe the decision to ban hunting was ill-considered and reached in unseemly haste.

The deer hunters want the judge to grant an order suspending the trust ban, imposed in April, until the outcome of a judicial review of its legality. The hearing continues.

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£2,000+	0.9%	1.09%	13.8%
£10,000+	0.6%	1.04%	13.2%
Unauthorised	0.9%	1.51%	25.4%

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6 Months	6.50	5.20

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	Gross %	Net %
3 Year	7.00	5.60
2 Year	6.75	5.40
1 Year	6.50	5.20
6 Months	6.25	5.00

Endorsement 90 Day Notice	Gross %	Net %
Up to £10,000	5.40	4.32
£10,000+	5.65	4.52
£25,000+	6.10	4.88
£50,000+	6.25	5.00
£100,000+	6.50	5.20
£250,000+	6.75	5.40

Up to £10,000	Gross %	Net %
£10,000+	5.40	4.32
£10,000+	5.28	4.22
£25,000+	5.70	4.56
£50,000+	5.95	4.76
£100,000+	6.08	4.86
£250,000+	6.32	5.05

30 Day Notice	Gross %	Net %
Up to £25,000	5.00	4.00
£25,000+	5.25	4.20
£50,000+	5.50	4.40
£100,000+	6.00	4.80

Up to £25,000	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	4.65	3.72
£50,000+	4.89	3.91
£100,000+	5.13	4.10
£200,000+	5.61	4.48

Migration Savings

(Instant Access)	Gross %	Net %
Up to £25,000	4.65	3.72
£25,000+	4.89	3.91
£50,000+	5.13	4.10
£100,000+	5.61	4.48

Power Plus (Instant Access)	Gross %	Net %
All balances	4.21	3.36

High Interest Cheque Account (Instant Access)	Gross %	Net %
Up to £2,000	0.40	0.32
£2,000+	1.20	0.96
£10,000+	3.25	2.60
£50,000+	3.47	2.77

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax applied to interest on savings.

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Member of the BSB Group

East Germany was better, judges told

Politburo leaders await verdict for killings by border guards

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

EAST Germany's Communist leaders, only days away from a landmark court verdict, pleaded yesterday for mercy while accusing Bonn of applying victors' justice.

"I am not a bloodthirsty monster who ordered killings, or even tolerated them," Egon Krenz, the former Communist Party leader, said. "A criminal I am not."

The 20-month trial is Germany's final reckoning with the East German past. Herr Krenz, with Günter Schabowski and Günther Kleiber, both former Politburo members, are accused of ordering the shooting of four men who tried to cross the death strip that divided East and West in the 1980s.

Herr Krenz, 60, was the most combative in the Berlin court yesterday. "The victors' power is exercising revenge on the representatives of the defeated power," he said in an hour-long appeal to the judges which swung between anger and special pleading. The prosecutor has demanded an 11-year jail sentence on manslaughter charges.

The public gallery, populated by Communist sympathisers, as for every one of the 115 hearings, burst into applause when he said: "In the German Democratic Republic we lived in a society which would never have accepted that youths

leave their school desks and immediately graduate to the dole queue." The East German system was better. "The attempt to realise socialism on German soil was my task." The verdict on that would be passed, he said, by history and not by a court.

His colleagues were more repentant. "We tried forcibly to bring heaven to earth, and

Maybe it is victors' justice, but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?

we failed," Herr Schabowski said. The new Germany was "the only historical answer to our failed attempt." The 68-year-old, plainly fearing the nine-year jail sentence that could be imposed next Monday, said that he had seen the truth too late.

All three men denied that they were guilty of the killings on the East-West frontier. It is believed that the defence case is relatively strong. Although 263 people were killed while trying to escape, the rules on

the frontier were relaxed in 1983 and the three defendants were in the Politburo only from 1983 onwards.

Four people were killed on the frontier between 1983 and 1989. But although the Politburo certainly carried the overall blame for enforcing the frontier controls, it is difficult to prove individual guilt. In the last six years of the East German state the Politburo did not make any new decisions on the frontier, nor was there any explicit discussion about the shoot-to-kill order. So the defence argument is that the Politburo members in the dock are merely representatives of the defunct regime and that the trial was entirely political.

The prosecution has been proceeding very thoroughly. The authorities have tried and sentenced border guards, their commanding officers, generals and members of the National Security Council. That is, the courts have gone up every rung of the hierarchy in search of the guilty.

Herr Krenz, the Politburo chief, is at the very top of that ladder. The prosecution has had to accept there was probably never a written shoot-to-kill order, but every border guard knew he had to shoot if he saw an escapee on the death strip. That certainly came from above and derived its



A defiant Egon Krenz in court at Berlin yesterday before telling his judges in his final defence plea "I am not a bloodthirsty monster"

authority from the leaders of the regime.

The most emotionally involved participant in the Berlin courtroom yesterday was Heinrich Schmidt. His son Michael, 20, a carpenter, was

using a ladder to climb over the wall, having successfully dodged all the other obstacles including a dog run, when a frontier guard shot him. The guard, who was about the same age as Michael Schmidt,

has been sentenced to 18 months' jail and from that trial Herr Schmidt found out for the first time the grisly details of the last moments of his son's life.

Michael was allowed to

bleed at the foot of the wall for three hours; had he been treated within 60 minutes he could have survived. The killing happened on December 1, 1984. Herr Krenz had been in the Politburo for a year. Herr

Schmidt has lodged his own case alongside that of the state prosecutor. "Maybe it is victors' justice, as they say," he admits, "but who else will stand up for the victims of the losers?"

America 'flouted test-ban treaty to upgrade its nuclear arsenal'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON was accused yesterday of breaking an international arms treaty by trying to increase the power of its nuclear weapons.

US officials denied the charge and said they were merely investigating ways to modernise old designs to increase the safety and security of warheads, not to upgrade their strength.

The argument goes to the heart of the extent to which the nuclear powers keep their ageing stockpiles of bombs and missiles in fighting trim while they are forbidden by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty from testing them, even underground.

The test-ban treaty, signed by 146 nations, was endorsed last year by the United Nations with the goal of halting the development of all new weapons of mass destruction. President Clinton hailed the

pact as a technological barrier that would end the arms race. Yesterday's dispute was prompted by the release of recently declassified documents by the overseers of the American weapons programme.

They were acting under pressure from the National Security Defence Council in Washington, an armaments watchdog group. Matthew McKinnis, a nuclear physicist with the council, pointed out an admission in the documents that America's weapons laboratories are working on ways to provide "new or modified designs" for weapons. Dr McKinnis said such work could be intended only to increase the power and precision of warheads and to improve their ability to penetrate heavily protected enemy bunkers.

Among the weapons affect-

ed are the W76 and W88 warheads for Trident submarine missiles. Britain buys Trident missiles from America but designs its own warheads at Aldermaston which are believed to be based on the W76. Nicola Butler, an analyst with the British-American Security Information Council, another private arms-control group, said that any design changes by the Americans would have to be studied by British nuclear engineers to determine how they affected the missiles' performance and whether they needed to be copied.

Officials at the US Energy Department, with stewardship over the nuclear stockpile, insisted the current work did not involve major redesigns that would increase the power of warheads. The department was designing no new weapons, they said.

Victor Reis, the official in charge of nuclear maintenance, compared the work to tinkering with an old car. "When you put in a new battery or have a piston-ring job, it's still an old car," he said.

Dr McKinnis, however, believes the changes to be more sweeping. Using the same analogy, he said they could amount to putting a new and more powerful engine in a car.

He feared that the Government's nuclear physicists were getting carried away and could not resist the temptation to improve existing weapons. He said they were making remarkable progress, even without testing, through computer simulations and pointed out that the laboratories' annual budget of \$4 billion (£2.5 billion) is a vast sum if all they are doing is maintenance and checking for flaws.



Khatami: sought return of European envoys

Iran leader loses fight for EU ties

PRESIDENT KHATAMI of Iran failed in his bid for a more moderate approach to the European Union (writes Michael Evans). Western intelligence sources say other politicians opposed his attempts to arrange the return of all EU envoys to Tehran. They were ordered home after Iran was implicated in the death of Kurds in Berlin.

British troops put guard on Karadzic spy centre

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

BRITISH troops stood guard yesterday over one of the nerve centres of Radovan Karadzic's secret police network: a labyrinth of bugging and surveillance equipment where a Muslim was beaten to death last year.

Four Warrior armoured personnel carriers and 30 soldiers encircled the Banja Luka Public Security Centre in the confusing aftermath of a security coup early on Sunday when special police loyal to Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb President, took over the building. They in turn were evicted by the British troops, who, following new Nato Stabilisation Force (Sfor) guidelines in Bosnia, were restoring the security centre yesterday evening to local police control.

Crowds gathered outside the security centre, including at least 50 uniformed Serb

police officers and another 40 toughish plainclothes officers who eyed the British troops aggressively. There was a tense stand-off, with British officers pushing local police back into the road. Major Dragan Lukac, 35, a Plavsic loyalist who commanded the corp, stood outside the entrance, talking to officials from the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia.

Despite the bewildering mixture of Serb forces involved, the overall message of events in Banja Luka was clear: Mrs Plavsic is now in open conflict with Radovan Karadzic, whose previously monolithic security apparatus is at last crumbling. Yesterday morning Mrs Plavsic gave a press conference in her presidency building, where materials illustrating Dr Karadzic's "big brother" methods went on display, including log

books and taperecordings of telephone conversations involving Mrs Plavsic. The International Police Task Force, which has been combing the security centre for more evidence of its clandestine operations, will release further details of its findings over the coming days.

SAS troops are known to be active in Banja Luka and are rumoured to be tracking Dr Karadzic's security forces. Zagreb: Croatian authorities are holding Pero Skopljak, an indicted Bosnian Croat war crimes suspect, in a Zagreb jail and are likely to transfer him to The Hague today, court sources said. Mr Skopljak was indicted in November 1995 for persecuting Bosnian Muslims. He was chief of police in the central Bosnian town of Vitez. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 17

Pilgrims descend on Paris for rendezvous with Pope

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TENS of thousands of young Roman Catholics from 160 countries flocked into Paris yesterday for the 12th World Youth Festival, a week-long celebration that will culminate in a vast open-air Mass celebrated by the Pope at Longchamp race course next weekend.

Days before the pontiff sets foot on French soil, his visit has already prompted an intensive security operation, a bonanza for the capital's soft-drink sellers in the sweltering heat and a series of religious and political rows.

At least 300,000 young people were expected to gather in the city — deserted by most Parisians for the month of August — as the biannual festival kicks off today with an opening ceremony on the Champ de Mars in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

The Pope will arrive on Thursday for his second trip to France in less than a year, and his seventh visit since 1980.

Organisers predict that up to half a million faithful will attend the open-air Mass on Sunday. Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, who will preside at today's opening ceremony, has referred to the "religious intensity and enthusiasm everywhere in France". But the anticipated crowds are only a fraction of the millions who turned out during recent youth festivals in Poland and the Philippines, highlighting the problems of the Church in a country that is nominally more than 80 per cent Roman Catholic yet increasingly secular in outlook. Less than one third of the youngsters gathering in Paris

this week are French and estimates of the expected crowd size have gradually decreased over the last few days, while the level of controversy has increased.

A growing number of young French Catholics are opposed to the Pope's conservative teachings on birth control, abortion, homosexuality and priestly celibacy. One of the most hotly disputed events during the Pope's four-day trip is a planned homage at the graves of geneticist Jérôme Lejeune, a vigorous opponent of abortion who died in 1994.

Le Monde gave a warning that the visit could appear to "legitimise anti-abortion commandos". Hundreds of buses, 38 special trains and dozens of chartered planes have been used to ferry the young pilgrims to Paris, where some have been lodged in the homes of French families, schools or sports halls. The new arrivals

have been issued with a "pilgrim's sack", containing maps, travel cards, meal tickets and a prayer book.

This year's festival, organised with military precision by retired General Philippe Morillon, formerly head of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Bosnia, has emphasised modernity and chic French style.

The thousands of young faithful have been kitted out with green T-shirts bearing the logo of an Eiffel Tower-cum-crucifix, while former punk rock fashion designer Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, whose other clients include the Duchess of York and Elton John, has produced a range of new "rainbow chasubles" to be worn by more than 5,000 officiating clergy.

This papal visit has not evoked the sort of political passions aroused last year, when the far-right National Front attempted to hijack celebrations of the baptism of Clovis by claiming the Frankish king as a figurehead. But it has inevitably provoked criticism from some religious minorities and those who say the secular French state has become too closely involved with a religious event.

Most notably, Protestants point out that the Pope's final Mass coincides with the anniversary of the St Bartholomew's Day Massacre in 1572, when Catholics killed tens of thousands of Huguenots.

Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, who is a Protestant, will meet the Pope just before his departure from Orly airport on Sunday, where President Chirac, a Catholic, will greet him on Thursday.



Lustiger: sees a religious revival

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Joke wears thin as power-starved Mir strays off course

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S exasperated cosmonauts last night switched off Mir's central systems, after another computer failure caused the orbiting space station to lose its orientation and most of its power.

In what has become an almost comic routine of mishaps — if the lives of three men and the destiny of Russia's space programme were not at stake — mission control in Moscow reported that plans for essential repair work would be shelved until the latest problem could be solved.

"It is not extraordinary because we have had such situations before," said Vladimir Solovoy, the head of mission control, who like other space officials has become philosophical about the accident-plagued orbiter.

He insisted that the lives of the crew were not in any danger, but admitted that the reason for the computer malfunction was not clear and that the situation was at best "chaotic".

As a result of the computer failure, the spacecraft is now off course and disorientated, so that the solar panels are no longer aligned with the Sun and the power

“The computer is switched off and there will be no altitude control. We do not know the consequences of this chaotic flight”

supply has effectively been cut off. To conserve energy all Mir's main systems, apart from life-support, have been shut off until today when a fresh attempt will be made to fix the computer and realign Mir with the Sun.

"Unfortunately, right now the system of station orientation is not operational. The computer will be

switched off until morning. There will be no altitude control at all. It will be chaotic. We do not know what the consequences of this chaotic flight will be," he said.

Unfortunately for the three-man crew of two Russian cosmonauts and the British-born NASA astronaut Michael Foale, the latest setback came only minutes after

the crew had successfully docked a Progress supply ship with Mir, an operation which had been delayed due to a separate computer problem on Sunday.

The most serious consequence of yesterday's setback is that vital repair work will have to be delayed yet again. The Russian crew members, who arrived on Mir earlier this month, have been trained to conduct dangerous repair work on one of Mir's modules damaged in a collision in June. As a result of that accident, the Spektr module was punctured and had to be abandoned, leading to the loss of about half of Mir's power.

The cosmonauts had planned the first of six space walks to begin tomorrow. They intend to attempt to reconnect Spektr's power cables with Mir and repair the damage to the module's wall.

However, those key repairs will now be delayed by several days at the very least, and there must be growing doubts about the feasibility of such a dangerous operation at a time when basic components on the space station are malfunctioning with such regularity.

Patience must also be running out at NASA, which helps to subsidise the Mir programme and uses the orbiter to train its astro-

nauts. Yesterday a spokeswoman said that the agency was watching developments "carefully" and that NASA was not worried about any immediate danger to its astronaut.

However, there is growing pressure in America to cancel any missions to Mir, not least because no scientific work has been carried out for months because the crew has had to repair the spacecraft. □ Houston: NASA yesterday postponed by one day plans to bring the space shuttle *Discovery* and six astronauts back to Earth because of fears of fog. In the event a fine day was reported at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. (AP)

St Petersburg rooftop sniper kills reformer

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

MIKHAIL MANEVICH, the Deputy Governor of St Petersburg, was assassinated by a sniper yesterday, sending shock waves through Russia's second city, which has been struggling to shake off its reputation for corruption and organised crime.

Witnesses said a rooftop gunman with an automatic rifle and telescopic sight fired eight rounds into the car carrying Mr Manevich and his wife as they drove in rush-hour traffic down Nevsky Prospekt, the city's main thoroughfare. Mr Manevich was hit in the neck and chest and died in hospital. His wife was wounded in the head but was said to be satisfactory.

"It was a brazen attack in broad daylight," a local reporter said. "Whoever wanted him dead, also intended this murder as a message to the city."

While the murder of bankers and businessmen has become common in post-communist Russia, political murders are still rare. The last in St Petersburg, the former Tsarist capital, was that of Sergei Kirov, a Bolshevik leader whose death in 1934 was used by Stalin as the pretext for his purges.

The latest killing will not have such grave consequences for Russia, though the murder



Manevich: bright and committed reformer

will certainly have damaging repercussions for St Petersburg, where the city government has been struggling to wrest power from the Russian mafia.

Anatoli Chubais, Russia's powerful Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, said he was shaken by the "despicable murder", but added that the reforms Mr Manevich stood for would continue. "For me, Misha Manevich was not just an official — we have been united by a joint cause and the ties of friendship since our student years."

"Despite the continuing attacks, the position of the reformers' team, of which

Mikhail Manevich was a fully fledged member, has remained unchanged," he said. "We will become more determined in our response, regardless of those who stand in our way."

Nevertheless, St Petersburg will be hard pressed to find a replacement. Mr Manevich, 36, was one of two bright, young and committed reformers credited with turning around St Petersburg's fortunes this year and attracting a flood of interest and investment to the city.

As head of St Petersburg's State Property Committee since 1994, he was instrumental in pushing ahead with important economic reforms, including the privatisation of property. He also campaigned constantly for the rule of law to be respected in St Petersburg's notoriously lawless business world. In addition, he was largely responsible for the success of St Petersburg's £200 million Eurobond issue in June.

Police and government officials were in shock yesterday and offered no hint of who might have ordered what experts are sure was a professional contract killing.

However, investigators are likely to concentrate on two areas. It is possible that Mr Manevich angered local business figures in his efforts to charge market prices for the city's property. Also, he may have made enemies among losing bidders in the highly lucrative sell-off of state property — the head of a local property committee near St Petersburg was murdered in similar circumstances two months ago.

Whatever the reasons, St Petersburg will not be able to shake off its reputation as a lawless city, where even the most high-ranking officials are vulnerable to the assassin's bullet. Last year John Hyden, a British lawyer, was shot dead in the city's Nevsky Palace Hotel, less than a block from yesterday's shooting. He was hit by a bullet intended for a local gangland boss.

Frigate stands by for urgent island pullout

BY DAVID ADAMS
AND GLEN OWEN

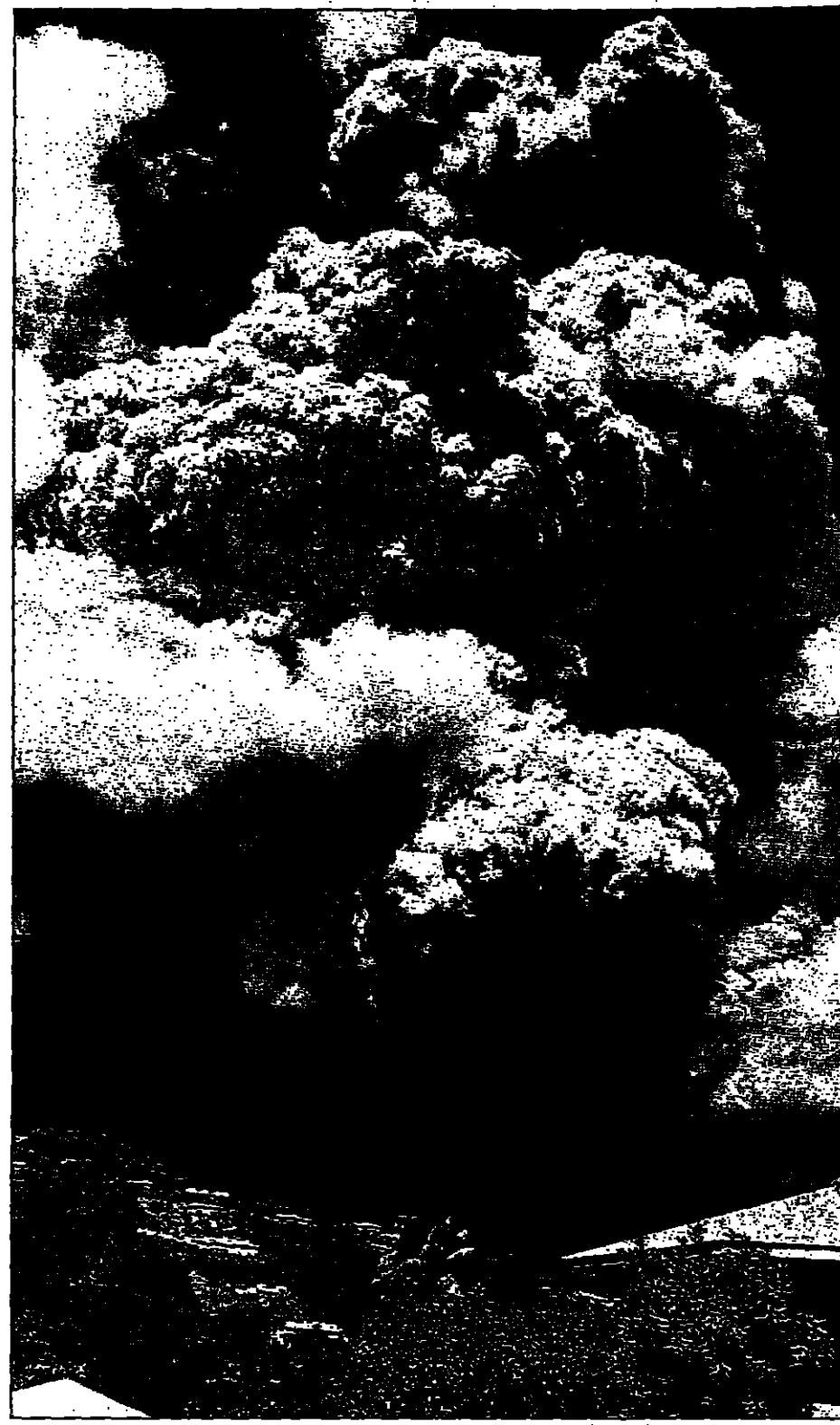
EMERGENCY talks were held in London yesterday, with Britain poised to evacuate the Caribbean island of Montserrat after scientists said it could be wiped out by new volcanic eruptions.

Yesterday's talks were held between government officials and by telephone with Frank Savage, the island's Governor, to arrange a voluntary evacuation this week after scientists monitoring the Soufrière Hills volcano detected a new phase in its cycle of eruptions. Experts at the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported that "the crisis has entered a stage for which there is little precedent" and there was the chance of a "massive, cataclysmic-intense eruption".

The Government had said that evacuation of the British dependency was a last resort and placed emphasis on its £41 million aid programme for the north of the island. But yesterday George Foulkes, the International Development Minister, agreed that the report had forced its hand. "Over the past 24 hours the volcano has become much more dangerous," he said. "As a result, we have agreed to the voluntary partial evacuation."

The first islanders are expected to leave this week. According to officials in Montserrat, evacuation plans are in place and could be executed swiftly. The plans, known as Operation Exodus, centre on the British frigate HMS *Liverpool* which is patrolling near Montserrat.

A code word from the *Liverpool* would divert merchant shipping in the area to help the evacuation. The US Government is also said to have offered troop landing craft to ferry people to the ships. Residents would be brought to an emergency jetty at Little Bay at the "safe" north end of the island, where they would be housed in a tent city until the ships arrived. The evacuees would then be taken to hotels in Antigua, Guadeloupe and St Kitts-Nevis until a longer-term arrangement could be made.



Ash belches into the atmosphere during a recent eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. Scientists now say that a new eruption could wipe out Montserrat

More than 4,000 of Montserrat's original population of 11,000 remain in the island, most of them huddled in 12 square miles of shelters in the north. The scientists, emphasising what they call "the potential for explosivity", made clear that the remaining residents are vulnerable to fierce eruptions. "People in the northern zone should seek shelter under a strong roof."

Of those who remain, about 1,500 people have been forced to seek refuge in overcrowded shelters where they depend on the Government for food coupons and rations of vegetables, tinned beef and rice.

Dr Richard Herd, a volcanologist in the island, said: "The situation is very serious. Recent eruptions have pointed up that the volcano may be capable of sustaining a very much larger explosion."

WORLD SUMMARY

Ageing is 'treatable disease'

Washington: The secret for a longer life is simply to assume longevity, Dr Ronald Klatz, president of the American Academy of Anti-Ageing, said yesterday (Tom Rhodes writes). Despite average life spans of 72 years for men and 78 for women, people should make plans to live far longer. Dr Klatz believes ageing is a treatable disease.

Beef seized

Hamburg: Sixty tonnes of beef seized in Germany had been imported from Britain in violation of an EU export ban because of mad cow disease, according to a customs spokesman. (AP)

Kenya toll rises

Mombasa: The death toll here rose to at least 35 in five days with the machete killing of two men. President Moi of Kenya blamed opposition leaders for fanning pre-election tribal hatred. (Reuters)

Guerrilla mercy

Lima: Twenty-nine Peruvian oil workers held in the jungle by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas were released unharmed after the rebels stole food, medicines and equipment. (Reuters)

Iraqi welcome

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein issued orders allowing Iraqis into Iraq to visit the country's religious shrines for the first time since the start of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War. (AP)

Storms shut port

Santiago: Storms forced the closure of a sixth port. Coquimbo, blocked the Pan-American highway and caused hundreds to flee their flooded homes, the Chilean authorities said. (Reuters)

Bigger bite

Hoover, Alabama: Jeff Bolling, who claims he found a condom in a Big Mac, is suing McDonald's for damages, saying he became "violently ill" and suffered extreme emotional distress. (AP)

Kidnapped Russians freed after 100 days

Moscow: Three Russian television journalists were freed after 100 days by Chechen kidnappers yesterday amid signs that the authorities in Grozny may be coming to grips with the current state of kidnappings (Richard Beeston writes).

Last night NTV, Russia's only commercial network, announced that its missing crew had arrived back in Moscow. Their release came only hours

after a meeting at the Kremlin between President Yeltsin and Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen leader, who agreed to resolve outstanding problems over sovereignty, security and economic co-operation in follow-up talks. The positive atmosphere at the talks and the release of the hostages should raise hopes about other kidnappers — among them two British aid workers — being set free.

Spin doctors smooth Clintons' holiday path

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

EVEN the Clinton family holiday became a focus for White House spin doctors yesterday as the President arrived for a three-week stay in Martha's Vineyard, the East Coast playground for America's liberal elite.

No longer facing the requirements of re-election and last year's populist summer destination of Wyoming, Mr Clinton was said initially to have opted for the golf courses and dinner parties of the Vineyard this year. After criticism of the decision, however, including controversy over the owner of the farm at which the family is lodging, aides said yesterday that Hillary Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, had made the final selection.

"He wanted Jackson Hole in the

Grand Tetons, but was outvoted," one aide said.

Mr Clinton can have suffered little arm-twisting: he has spent two previous summer holidays on the island off Cape Cod instead of in retreats favoured by the masses. Only in less popular times, in 1995 and last year, had the Clintons chosen the heartlands of the West. A successful election behind him, the President has been free to return to the place where he once sipped cocktails with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, dined with Nobel laureates and Hollywood stars and basked in the adulation of the island's faithful Democrats.

The party season begins in earnest today when he celebrates his 51st birthday at the home of Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen, the actors. If the past is precedent, the Clintons will

spend much of their time being entertained long into the night.

They are expected to visit Katharine Graham, publisher of *The Washington Post*, James Taylor and Carly Simon, the singers, and Vernon Jordan, the lawyer and presidential confidant.

A skeleton White House staff is accompanying the family, including Bruce Lindsey, the ubiquitous deputy counsel and card-playing friend of the President. He and a clutch of National Security advisers will continue to monitor urgent matters such as the UPS strike and the Middle East peace process.

But the point of the holiday, aides said, was relaxation for all. It is not only the longest holiday the Clintons have taken while in office, but the final family gathering before Chelsea enrolls

at Stanford University next month. The Secret Service agents housed near the family's borrowed farmhouse have been ordered to maintain a discreet distance at all times while Mr Clinton goes crabbing and plays golf and his wife and daughter relax in the sunshine.

Aides have continued to play down a conflict of interest involving the owner of their secluded home. The White House said that Richard Friedman, a Democratic contributor who is seeking government approval for a controversial hotel project in Boston, need not be excluded from offering hospitality to the President.

The local population, which had affected concern over extra traffic, crowds and security measures, appeared delighted by the Clintons' arrival.

Insurer argues Daisy the cow was guiltless of Chicago fire

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN AMATEUR historian from Chicago has challenged a cherished myth of American history by arguing that the great fire that destroyed the city in 1871 was not caused by a truculent cow called Daisy.

The new thesis is by Richard Bales, an employee of the Chicago Title Insurance Company who has pored over the records of the Chicago Historical Society, as well as those of his own firm, which handled most of the insurance claims.

According to Mr Bales, Mrs O'Leary could not have started the fire because she was in bed at the time. He argues that

the fire was set off by Daniel "Peg Leg" Sullivan, a one-legged horse-car driver who often slipped into Mrs O'Leary's barn for a quiet smoke of his pipe.

Bales, an employee of the Chicago Title Insurance Company who has pored over the records of the Chicago Historical Society, as well as those of his own firm, which handled most of the insurance claims.

"Peg Leg" was likely to have been the culprit for several reasons and that his testimony to police at the time was riddled with inconsistencies. For example, he claimed to have seen the fire break out while he was standing some distance away. This would simply not have been possible, since records show that several tall buildings would have blocked his view.

Mrs O'Leary's protests that she was asleep fell on deaf ears and she was forced to leave town with her family.

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Australia mourns loss of a 'great warrior'

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BURNUM BURNUM, the Aboriginal activist who planted an Aboriginal flag on top of the white cliffs of Dover to claim Britain for his people, has died of a heart attack in Australia at the age of 61. He had battled with heart trouble, which had been aggravated by diabetes.

A long-standing campaigner for Aboriginal rights, Burnum Burnum's name nevertheless became synonymous with the cause as a result of his dramatic gesture in 1988 — the year of Australia's bicentenary — when he declared he wished to bring no harm to Britain's native people, but sought a "fresh start" or "Kumpartoo", to Aboriginal-Anglo relations.

Australian leaders from all sides of the political spectrum paid tribute to him yesterday. John Howard, the Prime Minister, said: "He was a very gracious man and very strongly committed to the welfare of Aboriginal Australians."

Calling his death a terrible loss to the Australian and Aboriginal community, John Delaney, the New South Wales Commissioner of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, said: "Burnum Burnum will be remembered by all who knew him for his stately presence and his passion for his people. Australia can ill afford to lose an identity such as Burnum Burnum."

A member of the "stolen generation" of Aborigines taken from their families into government welfare, Burnum Burnum grew up as Harry Penrith but later took the name of his great-grandfather, meaning "great warrior", to better express his sense of Aboriginality. He spent his early childhood in the United Aborigines Mission's children's home before becoming one of the first Aborigines to matriculate from high school.



Burnum Burnum, the Aboriginal activist who has died in Australia aged 61. He once planted an Aboriginal flag on Dover's white cliffs to make a political point

He then studied law at the University of Tasmania for three years but left, fearing he was turning into an Englishman. Burnum Burnum became a central figure in the Aboriginal political movement, although his unorthodox style of protest often put him at odds with other Aboriginal activists, most recently with his controversial decision to seek the endorsement of the conservative Liberal Party to enter the Australian Senate.

He was also, however, known for his artistic and story-telling abilities and in his later years spent much of his time sharing his knowledge and culture with children throughout Australia. Senator John Herron, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, said: "Burnum Burnum worked tirelessly for reconciliation between black and white and will be remembered with affection throughout Australia — particularly by the many school children whom he held enthralled over the years with his telling of stories."

One of his last initiatives was to seek a national meeting of Aboriginal elders which he hoped would show the world how few Australian Aborigines live past the age of 55.

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Israel denies blame as Sidon shelling kills six

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING flared in Lebanon yesterday, killing nine civilians on Israel's only active border front line, as Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, made a conciliatory gesture to the Palestinians by announcing that he would release withheld tax funds.

Six civilians were killed and 34 wounded, many seriously, in the shelling of the southern port city of Sidon. The Israeli Army said that forces under the command of Antoine Lahd, the pro-Israeli militia leader, were behind the attack.

Mr Lahd commands the South Lebanon Army (SLA) in an Israeli-held occupation zone and a militia force in the Jezreel area just outside the zone. The Israeli Army blamed the second group, a source saying: "The SLA is backed by Israel, whereas the people who fired are not backed by Israel."

Israeli military sources said that Mr Lahd's men were apparently avenging the death of three Lebanese youths killed in a Jezreel explosion hours earlier. The Israeli Army said Hezbollah, the

Iranian-backed "Party of God", carried out that attack. It was the first time that Sidon, 25 miles south of Beirut, faced shelling since Israel launched a major military offensive in April 1996. The move came after an increase in attacks on the Jezreel area. In all, 16 shells landed in Sidon and its suburbs.

Soon after the shelling ended, six Katyusha rockets struck Jezreel. An hour later, the Israeli Air Force struck south Lebanon, where Israeli forces in Lebanon and the SLA maintain their headquarters. No casualties were reported.

Security sources said that the Lebanese Army had retaliated against the Sidon shelling with artillery fire on SLA positions in Jezreel.

In his announcement, Mr Netanyahu said that he would release immediately one third of the \$70 million in tax revenues withheld after the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market last month. The gesture came after the Palestinian Authority agreed to help in the investigation of the bombings.

and as a reward for the sentencing of three Palestinian car thieves who murdered a Jerusalem taxi driver.

Mr Netanyahu had also come under heavy pressure from the United States Administration to lift some of the punitive measures. A US State Department spokesman had described the withholding of tax in particular as "counter-productive".

But the Israeli leader insisted that the transfer of some of the funds was only "a partial step" and a "further easing of sanctions would depend on whether Palestinians could prove they were sincere about fighting terrorism.

At the weekend, Mr Arafat gave a warning for the first time that Palestinians were ready to abandon the peace accords with the Jewish state if Israel continued pushing them too far with sanctions and harsh security measures. Assault charges: Three Israeli paramilitary border policemen were charged yesterday with kidnapping and assaulting two Palestinians this month. (Reuters)



Lee: "no longer the opening batsman"

Lee fails to open libel case

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE'S senior minister, Lee Kuan Yew, failed to appear as the first witness in a libel case brought against an opposition leader yesterday.

George Carman, QC, a top British libel lawyer, is conducting the defence in a case seen as crucial for the viability of the political Opposition.

Instead of being first witness against J.B. "Ben" Jeyaretnam, Mr Lee, architect of modern Singapore and its anti-liberalism, was switched to last. Mr Carman appealed to the court to allow Mr Lee to testify second after Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister. Mr Carman, whose application to represent Mr Jeyaretnam was unsuccessfully resisted by Mr Lee, said: "Suddenly, 48 hours after my admission and without any rational explanation, Lee Kuan Yew is no longer opening batsman."

Mr K. Shanmugam, for Mr Goh, said Mr Carman should have sought leave to appeal to have Mr Lee take the stand first.

A total of 13 government politicians are testifying in 11 suits brought against Mr Jeyaretnam. His predicament arose during polls last year after his colleague, Tang Liang Hong, was described by Mr Goh and senior politicians of being anti-Christian and anti-English education. Mr Tang complained to police.

At a rally, Mr Jeyaretnam said: "And finally Mr Tang Liang Hong has just placed before me two reports he has made to the police against, you know who, Mr Goh Chok Tong and his group." These words, according to Thomas Shields, QC, hired to counter Mr Carman, are central because they infer that the plaintiffs had committed a criminal act.

Ranariddh forces cling to last base

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

PRINCE Norodom Ranariddh, the ousted Cambodian First Prime Minister, said yesterday that forces of his rival, Hun Sen, had suffered severe losses in fighting in northwest Cambodia, where the Prince's troops are defending their last stronghold.

Prince Ranariddh, who is visiting the Philippines to rally international support against Hun Sen, the Second Prime Minister, who toppled him in a coup last month, said he had spoken to General Nhek Bun Chhay, the chief of his forces, by telephone before meeting President Ramos of the Philippines. "I have been advised by General Bun Chhay. He told me Hun Sen's forces lost a lot of people" in fighting at O'Smach, near the Thai-Cambodian border, the Prince said.

He said Khmer Rouge guerrillas had been integrated into the forces loyal to

him on Saturday and no longer considered themselves to be Khmer Rouge.

His alliance with the Khmer Rouge has not been well received by the Association of South East Asian Nations — the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos and Burma — or the United States, which hold the guerrilla group responsible for the massacre of two million Cambodians in the 1970s.

The Prince was on the last leg of a four-nation Asian tour to plead for international efforts in his struggle against Hun Sen, who seized power in a weekend of heavy fighting in Phnom Penh in early July.

The Prince held talks with President Ramos yesterday. The President advised him to abandon his armed campaign against Hun Sen and take part in

elections in May. He reiterated the offer for the Philippines and ASEAN to assist in ensuring the elections were free and fair.

The Prince said he told the President he could not have a unilateral ceasefire and repeated a call for a general ceasefire. Hun Sen has issued a warrant for his arrest, accusing him of illegally importing arms and taking Khmer Rouge guerrillas into the capital — a charge the Prince denies.

□ Pong, Cambodia: The steady advance of Hun Sen's better-equipped troops has been halted as the royalists hold mined high ground protecting their last main stronghold.

With nowhere left to run, the resistance is making its first determined stand at O'Smach, aided by a virtually impenetrable mountain. Hun Sen's artillery has not moved forward for three days. (AP)

US drug company applies to sell children Prozac

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

ELI LILLEY, the manufacturer of Prozac, has applied to the federal Food and Drug Administration for approval to sell the popular antidepressant drug to children.

The application has sparked alarm among physicians' and parents' groups, which argue that little reliable research has been conducted into the effects of antidepressants on a growing young body. Most studies have focused on their impact on adults. Even the label on Prozac's packet says: "Safety and effectiveness in paediatric patients have not been established."

Strictly speaking, Eli Lilly has no need to apply for an FDA "green light". The federal agency approved the drug for general sale ten years ago, leaving individual doctors with the discretion to decide whether to prescribe Prozac to children. Last year alone, more than 600,000 American minors aged between six and

18 were prescribed Prozac, Zoloft or Paxil, the three leading selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs).

Prozac is occasionally used for children in Britain in cases of severe depression. Doctors can prescribe it on their own authority, although, like other antidepressants, it is not recommended for children.

Many American doctors fear that specific drug administration approval of Prozac for children would be used by Eli Lilly as the basis of a new, child-centred marketing campaign. The company already sells an enticing peppermint-flavoured Prozac and a recent advertising campaign appears designed to make the drug more attractive for use on children. The advertisements use children's artwork. Arianna Huffington, the influential columnist, wrote recently: "Exit Joe Camel. Enter Joe Prozac."

Peter Breggin, a Maryland

psychiatrist who is director of the state's Centre for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology, said: "I believe these advertisements are a conscious attempt to enter the kids' market."

They're hoping parents will say, "Oh, my child is unhappy, maybe he needs Prozac!" Concern is growing in America over the extent of the "drug 'em if they're difficult" attitude of doctors, parents and teachers. Millions of American children already take antidepressants other than SSRIs, usually for periods of many years.

□ Hazards: Despite worrying stories in the lay press, the five HT re-uptake inhibitors, the group of drugs which includes Prozac, have proved safer than earlier antidepressants (Dr Thomas Sutcliffe writes). The SHT re-uptake inhibitors do not represent such a hazard to the cardiovascular system, are not so lethal in overdose and have fewer side-effects.

Shanghai storm fears

Shanghai: Typhoon Winnie reached the Chinese mainland late yesterday and was approaching Shanghai after leaving 24 dead in Taiwan, the Shanghai Meteorological Bureau said.

The typhoon crossed the coast at Wenzhou, about 175 miles south of Shanghai. It then moved northwest as its winds dropped to 105.6ft a second in coastal areas, compared with 132ft a second earlier. The typhoon has been downgraded to a tropical

storm, the bureau said. The storm is expected to pass Shanghai early today. It is expected to be the worst storm to hit China's largest city in 90 years. However, residents said that people were going about their business despite heavy rain and strong winds.

Earlier, China had issued a storm alert for Shanghai and parts of the southeast as the approaching typhoon flooded streets with torrential rains and pounded the shores with towering waves. (AFP)

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

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THE TIMES

The boy lost in a foreign country

Robert Miles's parents are convinced that a vaccine is responsible for damaging him. Anjana Ahuja reports

Robert Miles runs up the stone steps to his house, ignores his mother and her visitor (me) and shoots into the living room. Oblivious to the antiques and furniture dotted around the room, the little blond boy pulls from his satchel a fairy cake topped with lurid green icing, and starts cramming it into his mouth. Crumbs fly everywhere.

Robert is eight, but possesses the social skills of a child half his age. He comes to stare at me so intently that our noses almost touch; there is no flicker of recognition that his parents are talking to him; he seems almost hyperactive in the way he speeds around the room, laughing. During this display of exuberance, he does not utter a single, coherent word.

Robert was given the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine when he was 14 months old: the date, December 5, 1989, is engraved on his father's memory. "Robert was completely normal beforehand," says Richard Miles, 41, a fine arts and antiques dealer. "He was walking quite well, and knew a few words. Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw."

Robert's parents are convinced that the MMR vaccine, which has been routinely administered to infants since 1988, is directly responsible for damaging their child, who is now regarded by the local education authority as autistic. (In fact, the vaccine given to Robert was withdrawn in 1992 because the mumps part was found to contain a mild meningitis virus.)

Robert soon retreated into a world of silence. "It was very weird," recalls his mother Sarah, 40, who gave up running a textiles company to look after him. "He used to be able to say short words like shoes, sock, and drink. Then he suddenly fell silent. I began to wonder whether I had dreamt

him saying these words. He felt like an alien." Then Sarah saw a magazine article about another child whose onset of autism seemed to coincide with receiving the MMR vaccine. "I read it and thought, that's us."

They are not a lone voice. Five medical studies to be published later this year appear to link the MMR and MR (measles and rubella) vaccine to an increased risk of autism and Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammatory disease of the intestines. One of the authors of the studies, Dr Andrew Wakefield, from the

Royal Free Hospital in London, told the medical magazine *Pulse* that the explosion of cases of Crohn's disease coincides exactly with the introduction of measles vaccinations in the Sixties.

He published similar criticisms two years ago: the then Chief Medical Officer, Kenneth

Calman, rejected them. The Department of Health has always maintained that the chances of an adverse reaction is one in a million. Richard says: "The Government said there was no link between CJD and BSE, but that didn't stop them from taking action."

Dr Wakefield, who gets five cases a week of children whose autism or Crohn's disease appears to be triggered by the MMR vaccine, says he would like to see separate vaccinations for each condition. He says his work will lead to a "profound rethink" on vaccination policy.

Many of the affected children, including Robert, are having their cases documented by Richard Barr, a solicitor in Norfolk, in the hope that a legal challenge can be mounted against the vaccine manufacturers. More than 800 families have come forward. As well as autism and Crohn's disease, other complaints include arthritis and epilepsy.

Seeing their child fall silent was not the only shock for Richard and Sarah, who occupy a three-storey house in one of Hammersmith's leafiest

squares with Robert and their two other children, Kate, 11, and Henry, 6. Several months after withdrawing, Robert started banging his head against walls. Sarah recalls: "He had become a troubled child. It was as if he had the world's problems on his shoulders. He also seemed very drowsy."

A visit to the doctor uncovered only glue ear, a build-up of fluid, which impairs hearing. The problem was rectified but the head-banging continued. He was expelled from nursery school for striking out at classmates and making animal noises.

It was not until Robert was given intensive speech therapy in 1991 that he changed. Sarah remembers it well: "The head-banging stopped. It was like switching a light back on." The first diagnosis of late-onset autism came the following year. Robert now attends Queensmill, a school in Hurlingham for autistic children. The school has said that Robert is not classically autistic. Despite this encouraging diagnosis, the upstairs rooms remain locked to stop him climbing out of the windows.

Sarah and Richard show nothing but patience and devotion towards their son. They never come across as bitter, and, to judge from their lifestyle, money is not the reason that they are pursuing the matter. Richard sees a wider issue: "We are immunising generations of children with a triple live vaccine, and we know very little about its long-term effects. That is terrifying. We are not anti-vaccine but when something goes wrong, it should be investigated."

The turning point could come in the courtroom. Mr Barr has been granted legal aid to research cases of alleged vaccine damage across the country. To date, 865 families have contacted him. Mr Barr, who has worked closely with Dr Wakefield, aims to bring his first case to court this year.

"Over the past two years we have investigated 30 children and the pattern is remarkably consistent," Mr Barr says. "We have detailed medical records and home videos to



Richard Miles and Robert: "Shortly after the vaccine, he seemed off-balance. He began to knock into furniture, stopped talking and started to withdraw"

show that all these children were developing normally until they had the vaccine." The thorniest issue is trying to prove that the children were not born autistic, but developed similar symptoms as a direct result of their jabs.

"What clinches it for us is that the children are developing very odd behaviour, such as eating habits. One child eats wallpaper, another tries to eat plaster off the wall, and some have taken to eating dirt off the floor. It is extremely distressing." Another feature, he adds, is that the children stop sleeping properly, stop saying words, and lose the ability to regulate body temperature.

Whether the case is a success or not, children like Robert face an uncertain future. A fortnight ago, Robert was examined by a paediatrician at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. The report records that the diagnosis of autism is "not appropriate". He is judged to have a severe language problem, which may or may not be caused through intensive language therapy. Until then, the report movingly concludes: "He is abroad in a foreign country with no one to guide him."

WHAT THE MEDICAL PROFESSION FAILS TO SAY

MOST doctors fervently believe that vaccines are one of medical science's greatest success stories, responsible for wiping out many deadly infectious diseases of the past century. So steadfast is this faith that it prevents doctors from acknowledging evidence demonstrating ineffectiveness, adverse reactions and cases of a disease in children who have been vaccinated against it.

In the 1994 UK campaign to inoculate all British children from five to 16 with the measles, mumps and rubella jab, the Department of Health assured parents that side-effects to booster jabs were very unlikely after being "carefully studied by looking at large numbers of children in the United States".

In fact, the evidence on which this claim was based was rather more meagre. Before the campaign the DoH received a fax from officials at the US National Immunisation Programme explaining that the only evidence that boosters were safer was based on questionnaires sent to college students receiving the boosters.

What is worse, the UK's Public Health Laboratory Service completed a study before the campaign began, demonstrating that children given the measles, mumps and rubella jab were three times more likely to suffer from convulsions than those who didn't receive it. Two thirds of the cases of

seizures were due to the measles component alone.

Its findings were supported by a similar study carried out in America by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) at about the same time. The CDC monitored the progress of 500,000 children across America, tapping into computerised records to discover adverse reactions to the two triple vaccines, the MMR and DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus). It identified 34 major side-effects to the jabs, ranging from asthma, blood disorders, infectious diseases, diabetes and neurological disorders, including meningitis, polio and hearing loss.

BUT IT was the incidence of seizure that leapt off the graph. The rate increased three times above the norm within the first day of a child receiving the DPT shot, and rose 2.7 times within four to seven days of a child being given the MMR shot, increasing to 3.3 times within eight to 14 days.

The success of vaccination is based entirely on assumption. Improved sanitation and hygiene, housing, better nutrition and isolation procedures have occurred at the same time that vaccines have been introduced.

The US Government notes that during the plague years of polio, 20,000 to 30,000 cases a year occurred in

America, compared with 20 to 30 cases a year today. Nevertheless, Dr Bernard Greenberg, head of the department of biostatistics of the University of North Carolina School of Public Health, has said that polio increased by 50 per cent between 1957 and 1958 and 80 per cent from 1958 to 1959, after the introduction of mass immunisation.

Despite the fact that the UK has had the MMR vaccine in place since 1988, and enjoys a high coverage among toddlers, cases of measles recently were going up by nearly one fourth.

The zeal behind the measles campaign was founded on the belief that measles can be a life-threatening condition. In America in 1990, at the height of a measles epidemic when 27,000 cases were reported, 89 died. But many deaths occurred among children of low-income families where poor nutrition played a part, as did failure to treat complications. In Africa, where children are markedly Vitamin A deficient, measles does kill. However, as study after study demonstrates, even Third World children with adequate stores of vitamin A or those given vitamin A supplementation are likely to survive.

LYNNE MCGAGGART

● Lynne McGaggart is author of *What Doctors Don't Tell You* (Thorsons, £8.99), and editor of a newsletter of the same name.

Anxious, depressed, suicidal — and still only a child

A generation ago, it was very rare for children to have a psychiatric illness or disorder diagnosed. Severe anxiety, agitation, depression and suicidal tendencies were confined to adolescence and adulthood. Children, at least, were thought to be immune.

No longer, however. Over the past 20 years, psychiatric, emotional and serious behavioural disorders have begun to invade childhood, causing suffering and distress in children as young as eight.

Peter Wilson, a child psychiatrist and director of the children's mental health charity Young Minds, says there is now clear evidence that rates of criminal behaviour, violence, suicide, drug abuse and anorexia are increasing among children and adolescents under 16.

A quarter of Britain's children cannot cope with life's stresses, writes Sue Corrigan

The fundamental cause, he suggests, is the rapid rate of technological change in society over the past 30 to 40 years, affecting all aspects of the way we live — employment patterns, educational pressures and family structures are all being greatly altered. "Kids are exposed to so much more information, so much more complexity," he says. "Grow-

ing up has perhaps never been harder or more confusing."

The disastrous effect on many vulnerable children and adolescents in Britain is the subject of a documentary to be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday night. *The Madness of Children* focuses on three disturbed youngsters receiving treatment in an adolescent psychiatric unit in Manchester. One, Jody, tried to hang herself in a local hospital while waiting for a place in the 15-bed unit — the only inpatient facility serving half a million children and teenagers in the North East.

The programme claims that while there are more than 80,000 psychiatric beds in Britain, only 600 are available for those under 18, half the number provided just seven years ago. Once a week, the staff of the Manchester unit meet to decide which of the emergency referrals received in the past week are urgent enough to warrant admission to the one or two beds usually available. At one such meeting, four of the seven children under discussion were already being treated with anti-psychotic or antidepressant drugs in the community.

Peter Wilson and other mental health workers say service provision for mentally ill and emotionally disturbed children is exceedingly patchy, with



Growing up has never been harder, nor more confusing

some areas, such as London, well served, but others very deficient.

"With the way the health service has been reorganised over the past seven years or so, it has been left to local authorities and local purchasers to make decisions as to their priorities," Mr Wilson says.

"Some clearly attach less priority to child and adolescent mental health services than others."

A London-based child psychiatrist, Dr Philip Graham, agrees that inpatient facilities for children and adolescents have been reduced overall, but says the figures also reflect more efficient use of beds, with more admissions for shorter periods. He says most professionals see significant benefits in shorter admission periods, with medications now used more commonly to treat psychiatric and emotional problems, though these are still very infrequently prescribed for children.

Both Mr Wilson and Dr Graham say there is no evidence of any increase in schizophrenia among children or young teenagers, as this is a condition thought only to

emerge once the brain has reached a certain point of maturation.

"We are not seeing any significant increase in the number of children who would be classified clinically as mentally ill," Mr Wilson points out. "What we are seeing are increasing numbers of children suffering from what would be termed severe states of turmoil, agitation and disorganisation."

"They are suffering from extreme worry about themselves and their families, manifesting in depression, extremely disruptive behaviour, violence against either themselves or others, drug abuse and attempted suicide."

"Many of these children mutilate themselves with knives or razors, to try to transform the mental pain they are suffering into physical pain. Anorexia is another manifestation of this desire to hurt and damage oneself. It is also often an attempt to stave off the changes that come about during puberty, to stay a child, to ward off all the terrible stresses associated with growing up."

Mr Wilson says the impact on children of changes in family structures over the past 30 or so years cannot be overestimated.

"Children are undoubtedly growing up in a less stable, clearly structured environment," he said. "With the increasing incidence of divorce, sole parenting and reformed families, there is less secure grounding in family life than there once was."

But, he adds: "Despite all the upheavals of recent decades, most children are growing up OK, and coping quite well. Perhaps three quarters are doing fine. But around one quarter aren't. We need to provide good support services for these more vulnerable

children, backing up families with a whole range of community services, such as health visitors, counsellors and GPs sensitive to potential problem areas."

In the absence of adequate support services, however, many doctors are increasingly resorting to prescribing drugs to help desperate parents cope with their children's violent and disruptive behaviour. Mental health professionals are concerned by this trend, arguing that little is known about the long-term effects of anti-psychotic and antidepressant drugs on children under 16.

They fear that Britain will follow the example of the United States, where more than 400,000 children are now taking Prozac, an antidepressant. *The Madness of Children* points out that there are no guidelines for treating children and adolescents with psychiatric drugs in the UK, and says the Department of Health cannot give figures on their use among British children.

"No child should be treated with medication alone," Mr Wilson insists. "They must

always receive some form of therapy — group therapy, psychotherapy, music therapy, whatever. The fundamental cause of the problems these children suffer is a breakdown in their relationship with others, and the causes must be identified if the problem is to be addressed satisfactorily."

● *The Madness of Children* will be shown on Channel 4 on Sunday at 7.30pm

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New faces, old hands

Last year the name was the Edinburgh Film Festival. This year the name is the Scottish Screen Edinburgh International Film Festival. The change means plenty to the principal sponsors, the main enabling body for cinema in Scotland, though punters have not noticed much difference in the programmes. New British films. Samplings from the wider corners of international production. Weird documentaries. A soup of controversy, this year stirred by *Sick*, *The Life and Death of Bob Flanagan, Supermasochist*. And a retrospective saluting Edgar G. Ulmer, the only man in history to direct both Leopold Stokowski and the burlesque stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, though not, you understand, in the same picture.

The festival also has a new director, the film critic Lizzie Francke, and she opened proceedings with a flurry of pink nulle in *Ma Vie en Rose*. This French audience-pleaser from a new director, Alain Berliner, explores the impact of a seven-year-old's transvestite urges on his parents' suburban paradise. Berliner finds a few too many easy solutions for such a tumultuous identity crisis, though the generous spirit and glows of visual kitsch prevent the film ever degenerating into a situation comedy. Jean-Philippe Ecoffey excels as the harassed parents; child actor Georges du Fresnoy gives delicate shading to the boy who believes his destiny lies inside a dress.

Twinkling kitsch over, it was time to join the Edgar G. Ulmer odyssey, with the director's daughter and keeper of the flame, Ariane Ulmer Cipes, as our friendly guide. In resurrecting 26 works by this obscure Austrian-born director, who came to America as Max Reinhardt's stage assistant and wandered the world making films in six days, Francke was following footsteps first trodden some 25 years ago. Edinburgh then led

FILM FESTIVAL

the world in finding significance in forgotten fodder.

This kind of retrospective brings both danger and delight. Dedicated buffs can savour an interesting, eccentric career, and catch missing items like *The Man from Planet X*, a charming diversion of 1951, or the moribund *Hannibal* of 1960, featuring elephants, snow and Victor Mature, gleaming in CinemaScope. The trouble is, once you move beyond the certified



Ulmer classics — *Detour* and *The Black Cat* being the most prominent — you risk wading through barren ground.

Given the handicaps under which Ulmer worked, one almost expected him to be the director of a film screening in the documentary section, *Fast, Cheap & Out of Control*. But he was not. Errol Morris was the maestro here, who else among American independents would tease out philosophical questions about order and chaos from the life experiences of a topiary gardener, a robot engineer, a wild animal trainer and an expert in naked mole rats? They talk straight to camera, but never become mere "talking heads". Morris douses his images with surreal poetry, tilting his camera, intercutting inventively. This was delicious.

So, too, was Ross McElwee's *Six O'Clock News*, a further instalment of the American film-maker's unique documentation of his life and times. Fascinated and worried by the

roll-call of tragedies and bizarre incidents that comprise local TV news, McElwee decides to take to the road, camera in hand, and track down some of the subjects. He meets hurricane survivors, a Korean immigrant whose wife was murdered, and a garage cleaner crushed by concrete during an LA earthquake. As in Morris's film, chaos looms large in these lives; but McElwee, a gentler spirit, allows you to feel more of the emotional consequences.

Beside such compelling reports from planet Earth, some of the fictional festival fare begins to look a little artificial. On Friday night *Face*, the latest from Edinburgh favourite Antonia Bird, had audiences cheering loudly. This, in case you didn't know it, is the film that features Damon Albarn's acting debut. His part may be small — Blur's frontman makes only the briefest of appearances and utters a minimum of lines — but he does at least add his name to the list of pop stars who have successfully portrayed hoodlums on screen.

As to the film itself, once you strip away the rigorously stylised photography and a shallow attempt at political comment, all you have is a tawdry story of thieves falling out. It is right to give thanks, though, for the film's dark humour and the savoury cast, led by Robert Carlyle, Ray Winstone and Philip Davis.

Better news on the British front comes with *The Girl with Braids in Her Feet*, a likeable comedy about a schoolgirl facing 13-year-old problems: period pains, an erratic home life, sex and its consequences, and pressure from the PE teacher who believes her to be the school's dream athlete. "Leicester, England, 1972," the opening title says; and the unapologetic insistence on local colour from an unfashionable pocket of Britain is one of the film's delights. Joanna Ward's perceptive heroine is another.

Under the Skin, financed



Damon Albarn (left), making his screen debut, with Ray Winstone in Antonia Bird's *Face*, one of the offerings at the Edinburgh Film Festival

by the British Film Institute and Channel 4, offers another reason to wave the flag. Visuals alone keep you riveted to Carine Adler's debut film: dreary domestic interiors become transformed with edgy cutting and expressionistic colours. But the human dimension is uppermost. The subject is coming to terms with a mother's sudden death, and the identity crisis this provokes. Samantha Morton's wayward daughter makes no concessions to audience sympathy as she lurches between moods and sexual encounters in her mother's wig and fur coat. But she wins our hearts by wrestling openly with painful emotions. This is the kind of film that gives the audience no hiding place.

Over the weekend there was no place to hide from Mrs Brown, if only because its co-star Billy Connolly was in town practising his customary press conference sport of lambasting the Scottish media. But John Madden's film, due for release shortly, deserves attention on its own for the skill, tenderness and humour with which it treats Queen Victoria's friendship with her Highland favourite John Brown. Judi Dench is not stretched as the Queen, plunged into grief after Prince Albert's death, but Connolly is unexpectedly fine as the champion who gave her tea, sympathy and possibly a little more.

GEOFF BROWN

• The Scottish Screen Edinburgh International Film Festival, until Aug 24 (0131-467 8855)

Big yellow taxi ride through hell

THEATRE

Several of the brightest offerings on the Edinburgh Fringe this year are imports from America — and, no, I'm not thinking of Steve Martin's *Wasp* (Assembly Rooms), a cluttered satire about Mr Average Suburbanite, with his fundamentalist religion, his goofy obsession with golf, and his half-mad family. Some passable lines — "the denial of my affection will make my son strong like me". "Oh God in Heaven, which is seven miles above the Earth" — do not compensate for the clumsiness of the whole.

But Will Kern's *Hellcab*, presented by a Chicago company called Tamarind at the Traverse, has bite, pace, humour and a surprising sensitivity, and left me feeling I would never, ever complain about grouchily taxi drivers again. After all, what happens to Loren Lazzerini's unnamed cabbie as he trundles through the Windy City in his yellow personamobile on Christmas Eve? His passengers include noisome evangelicals, a manic boy seeking drugs, a gluey vamp, a couple who have sex in the back before reaching their motel, several drunks, a Hyde-like figure who asks him "to make a right into that alley", and a nut who thinks the solution to Earth's problems is mining the Moon.

Twice the cabbie tries to intervene in the serial chaos, seeking out a young woman to tell her that the yuppie who has been sweet-talking her actually sees her as a cheap lay, and offering a trip to the hospital to a dazed rape victim. But all he ends up with is an acute sense of guilt for having accepted a big tip from someone seriously in trouble. Whether you see the play as a portrait of embattled human decency, or a study of the intricacies of race, poverty and urban desperation, or simply implicit propaganda for black cabs with strong partitions, *Hellcab* is equally rewarding.

As you might expect from the author of *Search and Destroy* and *The Lights*, Howard Korder's *Boys' Life* (Assembly Rooms) is also about the confusions of city living: but this time the emphasis is sex in its more joyless varieties. Danny McCarthy's Jack, fretting at wedlock, pretends to casual pick-ups that his son is his ward, and does all he can to ensure that his unmarried pals stay as immature as himself.

Korder has a nice ear for the argot of a subworld in which women go to Find-the-God-dess-Within classes, men boast of having their own partitions at the office, and love-talk is apt to consist of "I'm miserable", "I know you

are, that's why I feel so close to you." But beneath the Peifferesque comedy there's a strong sense of two genders and one city in drastic disarray.

Among the indigenous offerings, there's a finely acted revival of David Harrower's *Knives in Hens* (Traverse), a bleak but powerful tale of a peasant woman's escape from mental and marital servitude that was much admired when it played in London in 1995. But the best notices have gone to another Traverse Scot, Mike Cullen, for his *Anna Weiss*, which involves the undeniably topical subject of false memory syndrome.

The piece could be subtler without imperilling its main strength, which is dramatic tension. Surely memory-manipulators are dangerous when they are curvy and plausible, not when they are as transparently pushy and as crudely man-hating as Anne Marie Timoney's *Anna*. Moreover, Cullen needs to work harder on several scenes, notably those in which the therapist reveals she has offloaded her own experience of incest on her patient and, moments afterwards, the two women reverse roles. As it is, an admittedly engrossing superficiality rules.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Prokofiev in bulk proves indigestible

The road past Prokofiev was paved with good intentions. In presenting 17 works by the composer in three concerts in three days, the Edinburgh Festival was taking an enormous box-office risk, even with Valery Gergiev and Alexander Toradzé prominent among the performers. Financially, given that both Kirov Orchestra concerts were well sold, and the Toradzé piano circus cannot have cost very much, they got away with it. Artistically, they missed the target by miles.

The notion of lumping together all nine of Prokofiev's piano sonatas in one

afternoon was always a dubious one, bearing in mind that by no means all are masterpieces. Performed by one or two master pianists, they might have added up to an illuminating experience. Performed by seven of Toradzé's pupils and junior colleagues at the University of Indiana, and shovelled together as though at random — and with two negligible sonatas thrown in to prolong a concert of three and a half hours by a further 25 minutes — it was a matter of subtraction rather than addition.

The only useful way to have done it would have been to offer the nine sonatas in

CONCERTS

chronological order. But the Ninth and fragmentary Tenth (the latter with an ill-conceived lighting effect) were included in a jumbled first half which took 90 minutes before it reached a work of true inspiration, the Sonata No 2. It says much for Alexander Korsantya, the pianist involved in the Seventh and Eighth Sonatas, that he was able to retrieve so much lost ground in the fourth hour of the recital.

Two days earlier, Toradzé had taken part in another badly planned Prokofiev pro-

gramme, this one with Gergiev and the Kirov Orchestra in a concert featuring the problematical Fifth and youthful First Piano Concertos in the first half with the hideous *Sybilian Suite*. As an exceptionally volatile musician Toradzé was well suited to the exclusively organised Fifth Concerto which, however, was completely upstaged by the romantic exuberance of the First.

The essential fact about Prokofiev is that of all great composers he was the most flawed. Gergiev and his excellent orchestra did all they could in their second Usher Hall concert to redeem the

Second Symphony but, in the shock-horror first movement at least, it remained obdurately irredeemable.

Fortunately, considering the undercharacterised solo performance by Sergei Levitin, the Second Violin Concerto needs no special pleading. The Third Symphony, on the other hand, still does and — the most positive achievement in the three days — Gergiev demonstrated that, pieced together though it is from bits of *The Fiery Angel*, it is a miraculously coherent and dramatically effective construction.

GERALD LARNER

Sing-along-a-rock'n'roll

POP

Songs and Visions
Wembley Stadium

ignoring the progressive, rebellious spirit of rock'n'roll altogether. Punk rock and hip-hop, the two most exciting and culturally significant pop movements of the past 20 years, were pointedly ignored. Even the all-star reading of Bob Dylan's 1964 hit, *Like a Rolling Stone*, completely missed the scouring, spit-filled momentum of the original.

Also strangely overlooked were the hits of Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, Madonna, Elton John, David Bowie and Michael Jackson. For an event claiming to offer a definitive overview of the rock era, these were inexplicably perverse omissions.

Ultimately, *Songs and Visions* presented a depressingly safe and sanitised view of pop history. It was not a celebration of rock as abrasive soundtrack to social protest or youth revolution. Instead, it offered a distorted and revisionist view of our century's greatest art form as mere "feel-good" family entertainment.

drained of all the danger and passion and sexual charge which made it so exciting in the first place. This was a vision of pop music as historical cabaret rather than vital cultural force.

Of course, there is a huge market for this sort of cosy pop nostalgia and, in fairness, very few of the 70,000-strong crowd at *Songs and Visions* seemed to leave disappointed. Climaxing with a six-song Elvis Presley medley, book-ended by two Beatles numbers, the Wembley extravaganza became the world's biggest karaoke party and almost everyone sang along.

But as the applause died, the sound of Presley spinning angrily in his grave was clearly audible.

STEPHEN DALTON

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DESPITE being billed as featuring "Songs from Oasis back to Elvis", Saturday's *Songs and Visions* spectacular at Wembley Stadium failed to deliver the Oasis side of the equation. In fact, it scarcely delivered much at all.

Assembling a living jukebox of seasoned rock voices to belt out the greatest hits of the past 40 years, each illustrated by relevant newsreel footage, was always a bizarre notion. Perhaps 1990s soul divas Toni Braxton and Mary J. Blige boosted their profiles by pandering to such bland populism, but do Rod Stewart or Seal need such desperate measures to salvage their ailing careers?

Jon Bon Jovi clearly does not, since his energetic contributions were the most rapturously received of the whole three-hour set. Possibly

because the New Jersey rocker has tailored his entire career to stadium shows, he worked the crowd like an expert. But Robert Palmer seemed as out of place as his designer 1980s suits, while Steve Winwood's blustery soulman routine merely sounded tired.

There were set piece numbers by kd lang and Chaka Khan, though only Braxton's quavering emotionalism proved consistently engaging. But far more disappointing than any individual performance was the deeply conservative set list, which relied heavily on wearily predictable Motown-era soul while virtually

In his own image

BBC PROMS

Britten Nights
Albert Hall/Radio 3

an all-male scenario the Tempter (Ivan Sharpe) persuades the Younger Son (Andrew Burden) to "act out your desires", and Mark Tinkler's excellent staging touched sensitively on the homo-erotic undertones.

Setting the parable in the 1930s when Britten was himself a young man, Tinkler gave it immediacy by dressing his singers as working men rather than monks. Charles Johnston and Quentin Hayes were admirable as Father and Elder Son, and the CBO and Birmingham Contemporary Music Group, directed by Simon Halsey, realised the score's subtleties in such a way as to make the inferior status of *The Prodigal Son*, compared with the other canticles, seem in need of review.

about Britten's critique of "empty religious forms" came to mind occasionally in the Latin chanting by the boys' choir in Sunday's performance. That is no reflection on the first-rate choristers of Westminster Abbey, under Martin Neary (who earlier in the afternoon had given a fine concert of their own), whose voices floated ethereally down from the gallery.

The three soloists, who are taking the work to the Salzburg Festival for the first time this week, could hardly have been more sharply differentiated. Eva Urbanová delivered the soprano part on an operatic scale, with untidy begin-

nings and endings of phrases: all rather formidable, yet somehow disengaged. The tenor Hans Peter Blochwitz brought more humanity to Wilfred Owen's poignant verse: more vulnerability, too, though better diction would have maximised his impact. The baritone Thomas Hampson was less savage than Blochwitz in their duet *Out there*, but he invoked a magnificent dark anger in *Be slowly lifted up, thou long black arm* and a profound sorrow in *After the blast of lightning*.

The choral and orchestral explosions in the *Dies Irae* were thrillingly manufactured by the City of Birmingham and BBC Symphony Chorus, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, though as always it is the ending's unfathomable sadness and sense of loss that linger in the memory.

BARRY MILLINGTON

THE TIMES CHALLENGE OF THE MIND



The first Mind Sports Olympiad, which includes The Times Crossword Championship, is taking place at the Royal Festival Hall, London, until Sunday August 24. For further details, and how to enter, call 0171-703 2828.

SOLUTIONS AND WINNERS. Bridge (Friday). £500 winner: John Elven, Cambridge. Mensa. £100 to Patricia McCormack, Cannock, Staffs. Chess (Saturday). Answer c was correct — Queen takes pawn on e6, check, sacrificing the Queen. Black has to accept with 1... bxc6 (if he blocks with the bishop it is captured with checkmate), but now White has the pretty 2 Bishop to g6 checkmate. b) 1 Bishop to g6 loses because Black takes the knight, not the bishop, with 1... Queen takes c5, while c) 1 Bishop to b5 achieves nothing and the White knight is stranded on c6. £500 to Daniel Awdry, Melsesham, Wilt. Mensa. 1 Bluebell. 2 Alan — Twenty six pounds and fifty pence. Brendt Fifteen Pounds and fifty pence. 3 1050. £100 to Janet Cox, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Hague's team has no future on the Left

The Tories lack both policies and principles, says Graham Mather

Conservatives have never enjoyed Opposition. Many approve of Macleod's dictum, "The Socialists can scheme their schemes, and the Liberals can dream their dreams, but we, at least, have work to do." The interest in policy of the Thatcher era was not typical. After John Major's defeat, many Tories rushed to assure the public that it would be a long time before they advanced any new policies — or indeed any policies at all.

This would have been the correct response if it had been Conservative policies that lay at the root of defeat. In fact, ideologically Conservative policy positions have been adopted by a Labour Government that can sometimes seem one of the most market-minded, reforming governments Britain has seen. If the right policies mean success, it cannot be wise for Conservatives to become a policy-less party.

It was the perceived failings of Conservative ministers and MPs, their shortcomings and incompetence that put off the voters. As a leading Tory strategist put it during the election campaign, "they want our policies without us". So to turn away from Conservative policy-making would be misguided and perverse. The correct response is to out-reform Labour: to have better and more radical solutions to the "wicked issues" of state welfare, state spending and the machinery of government. Modern politics awards the prizes to those who reach the right policy solutions first, regardless of traditional political colour or label. Instead, on each of these priority issues, the early signs have been for policy-starved Tories to attack Labour from its left flank.

When Frank Field, Social Security Minister, opened up the issue of more autonomy for benefit offices, one would have expected Tories to rejoice at such Thatcherite thinking. Instead, a cry went up to challenge him to rule out benefit payments differentiated regionally. Yet surely reforming Conservatives cannot be happy with a £107 billion welfare budget, predicated on the false basis that living costs and personal requirements are identical from one end of the country to another? The radical path would be to urge Mr Field on, rather than seeking to trip him up.

The persistent inability to make real inroads into government spending levels may be ending. After a quarter per cent cut in spending on services and pay this year, the projection for the coming year is of a 1 per cent cut. Does this merit Tory squawks? Surely the right response is to hold Gordon Brown accountable for the reduction, and watch like hawks for any backsliding, rather than to suggest that Conservatives wish state spending to be any higher.

Many Conservatives with Treasury experience have yearned for years for an independent Bank of England tough enough to ensure that, when in doubt, monetary policy is toughened against inflationary risk. With politicians in charge, the danger is always of action too late, leading to Britain's familiar go-stop, boom-bust cycles. The legitimate criticism of Mr Brown's

reforms was that they did not go far enough, to make the Governor personally and directly responsible for inflation outcomes. Instead Tories attacked the whole principle of Bank of England autonomy.

In Britain today it is rare for capable senior businessmen to accept ministerial appointments. It will be rarer still after the onslaught on David Simon, former chairman of BP. Business leaders are profoundly unimpressed by the attacks. Some have spoken to me reviewing whether it is worth encouraging their best people to look to a period of work in Whitehall. The Conservative Party needs to refresh its own talent banks, not least from the business community. British governance needs the same. The attack on Lord Simon of Highbury rarely seemed to have regard to these considerations.

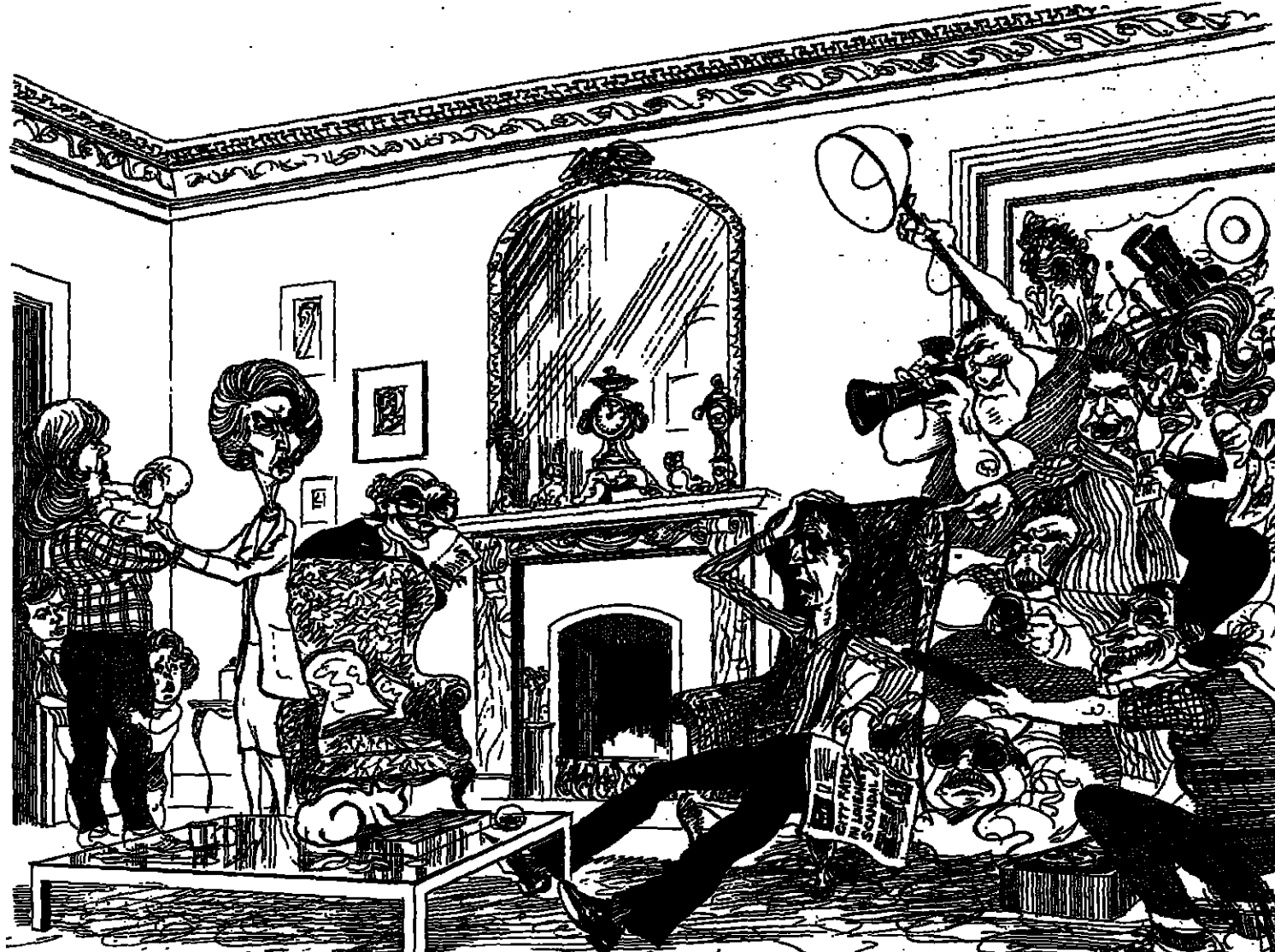
To attack from the Left is an uncomfortable position. It implies that less reform, more spending and a bigger State are what Conservatives really wanted all the time: a proposition that voters will consider lacking in credibility. The suggestion that Conservative reforms aimed to end up increasing public spending, building a bigger and more comprehensive welfare state, and establishing a larger state health and education sector, makes nonsense both of history and ideology.

It is understandable that surviving Tories, traumatised by so comprehensive a defeat, will wish to put some distance between themselves and the factors that might be responsible for the disaster. Yet it is better to be positive than negative, even in Opposition. As the guru of the Cambridge Right, Maurice Cowling, argues in his recent *Politica* pamphlet, *A Conservative Future*, even a Eurosceptic position "should be more positive and less defensive than it has been in the past".

He is right. As Professor Jeffrey Sachs of Harvard highlighted in this year's *Global Competitiveness Report*, on every economic indicator the Anglo-Saxon economies of the US, UK, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland are outperforming continental Europe. European taxes, Sachs reports, are already producing "widespread evasion, corruption and cynicism". The Anglo-Saxon economies are dramatically outperforming EU performance in growth, employment, spending competitiveness and tax levels. For Tories this is a positive message that validates their work and suggests more of the same, not a retreat to Christian Democratic statism.

New Labour is seeking to learn the techniques of Thatcherite reform. Conservatives should propose support, encourage, and monitor changes aimed at these goals. They should avoid any accusation that they are retreating to a profoundly conventional and reactionary model of opposition, policy-free and quite divorced from the political principles they followed in power.

The author is a Conservative MEP and president of the European Policy Forum.



Mrs Cook's home truth

If two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way... probably somebody's dream

With opinions, as with antiques, provenance is all. Thousands of women could write to a newspaper pointing out that obsessive, workaholic, vain, competitive men spend too little time with their families and therefore often wreck them. But nobody would pay much attention. Dozens of columnists have said it and met with no more than bored shrugs: bah, women, always grumbling.

But now, hurrah! The truism is elegantly expressed in a letter to *The Scotsman* and signed "Margaret Cook". News editors blink in incredulous delight at such a chance to embarrass the Foreign Secretary, and the sad old truth is suddenly a headline. The rest of us might as well make hay while we can, and swell the chorus.

For among those who aim high and achieve high, this unequal competition between work and family life is one of the curses of the age. It is, to the modern middle classes, what gin was to the Victorian poor. It breaks hearts, oppresses the kind and gentle, warps the lives of little children and stunts the achievement of teenagers. Its poison does not confine itself to individual families, but spreads wider, creating a general climate in which betrayal becomes smart and serial matrimony a norm, because this is the life which visible public achievers lead. Media people, actors, literary, politicians, glitzy journalists whose nimble prose makes everything seem acceptable — all these are regularly seen to dump spouses and children for photogenic new partners, generally associated with their work.

None of this makes anybody noticeably happier. Sometimes the new relationship collapses, sometimes it staggers on until grey-haired men who largely ignored their first children find themselves, with their careers in decline, pretending to enjoy the raising of a second brood while a nervous, demanding younger wife who can quite understand where all the fun went.

But then, you wouldn't expect it to make people happier: very little of this merry-go-round of smart divorce is founded on any sensible reason. It is not habitual unkindness, violence, mutual contempt, incompatibility or even ungovernable sexual passion which causes it, but more likely the reasons delineated by Mrs Robin Cook. What price an affair born not of selfless tenderness but of obsessive

hurry, of ambition, of the emotional fragility of a high-stakes player in a trade without trust? As Mrs Cook cruelly remarks, when the workaholic's one solace is praise, "He/she is likely to become strongly attracted to any person who regularly and unstintingly supplies it, to the strong detriment of other relationships".

Ouch! Well, I know nothing of the Foreign Secretary's nature, but the picture is familiar. Anybody who has ever worked in an adrenalin trade should recognise it. At work — on the film set, at the party conference, in the newsroom — life resembles one of those bright ensemble TV dramas. Sharp-witted, amusing colleagues appreciate your talents, take your side against office enemies, and share your triumphs with cries of "Yes!" and exuberant high fives. You smile into one another's eyes, locked in the heady intimacy of a hunting party glowing over its kill.

Later, back home, you are just Dad. Dad, whose job is to root out the kitchen drain or negotiate unsatisfactorily with cheeky builders about the damp. Dad, who is in trouble for having had a victory drink after work instead of rushing home to go and sit in a school hall smelling of gym shoes and be lectured by some corduroy teacher about Damien's inattention in Combined Science.

Your wife is unimpressed by your day's achievements, probably because she has a rather less glamorous job of her own which she struggles to fit around a mass of commitments to the young and the old, which includes buying a birthday present for your aged mother. Since you are such a high achiever, you are intelligent enough to see that this is unfair. Since you are a human being, seeing it makes you even grumpier and less well-disposed towards the hearth and home.

So when the chance comes to stay longer at work — the place where

people make you feel good and important and brave and wise — you take it, rather than go home and feel guilty and clumsy and incompetent. Nor does all this apply only to men: reverse the sexes throughout, if you like. US research recently uncovered numbers of professional women prepared to admit that they feel more relaxed at work than at home.

When work and domesticity are so at odds, and hardly anybody gets home for a healing lunch with their spouse (as quite senior functionaries do in Italy), no wonder the hackneyed temptations of sex crop up. But even affairs would matter less if relations were not already soured by a build-up of resentment in the domestic spouse, and of needy vanity in the workaholic. Worse than infidelity is the deeper betrayal which puts another

tribe before the family: a woman may be furious if her husband sleeps with a neighbour she knows, but if he sleeps with some aloof power woman at work, then the betrayal is doubled. "What could I know?" said a BBC adulteress's wife once, bitterly. "I was just a little woman up from Bromley with Farex on my skirt."

Of course, there is a way that the high-flying hard-working man can have the cake and eat it. He can — or once could — marry a woman who actually wants to give her life to supporting his: to be mother to his family, hostess to his contacts, mistress of his wardrobe and his medicine cabinet, breathless admirer of his triumphs, tactful soother of his defeats. She sees herself as part of his team, and puts aside her own concerns to meet him with a drink, a fresh dress and the nearest that a Home Counties wife can manage to a geisha obeisance. Young wives used to be lectured on how to do all this: even in the 1960s Jilly Cooper urged her readers to get the Hoovering done before "He" came home because men don't like

women fussing around with unbecoming housework.

It is unfashionable nowadays to advocate such conduct, but older women who have done it all their lives will — when properly encouraged, assured they are in sympathetic company and primed with a small sherry — tell you that it works. The man with such a wife will enjoy coming home. If he leaves her (some do, which is cruelly hard for wives who have risked all on wifehood), then it is likely to be for a stronger reason than the poor saps mentioned earlier, who just blunder embarrassingly out of one badly run marriage into the next.

But you can't be both a geisha and a consultant haematologist; any more than you can be an attentive husband and Foreign Secretary. When Mrs Cook first spoke publicly about the break-up of her marriage, she laid blame on the excessive hours an NHS consultant has to work. Now she has given us the other side of the coin. Both are valid. It is hard for a family to survive one high-powered career these days, and almost impossible to survive the pressure of two.

Even if the family does not crack apart, a great deal of that daily pressure is communicated to the children. From their earliest days they will understand that even the simple, joyful business of giving them their milk and fish fingers and admiring their playground artefacts is a source of stress and worry and muttered cursing about the unreliability of nannies. Later, they will see busy parents flying hither and yon, shouting instructions down telephones as they thrust their arms into jacket sleeves, and generally carrying on as if anything on the far end of a wire was bound to be more important than what their own child is saying. This does not make children happy and confident. Sorry, but it's true.

The awful fact is that if two bright people marry and procreate, something has to give way. Probably somebody's dream. People should face this when they marry, and remember it again before they conceive children. To say that is no backlash against feminism — men can slow down their careers, too, or follow faithfully like Denis Thatcher in midlife's perfumed wake. But if we're so damn bright, we aspiring achievers, we should be able to work out that nobody can have everything.

Libby Purves

Sundancers

AS DIANA, Princess of Wales, soaks up the sun in Greece, her favourite ballerinas are having a less happy time of it. Dancers of the English National Ballet, of which the Princess is patron, have been banned from sunbathing.

When the corps de ballet returned from holiday, sporting complexioned ranging from pink to walnut brown, the artistic director, Derek Deane, went quietly pale. Then he, too, went puce, with rage.

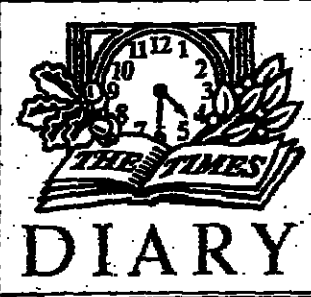


Throwing money at them's no good; they'd only drop it

With a new production of *Swan Lake* imminent, he had a vision of his swans taking to the stage like a flock of flamingos and ordered them to slap on the camouflage lotion and stay out of the sun. Deane's gloom deepened when the principal dancers, husband and wife Lisa Pavane and Greg Horsman, returned from Corfu with dark tans.

Come next month, when the production opens at Oxford's Apollo theatre, all must be whiter than white. Deane explains: "I'm just a little worried that the lighting effects will wreak havoc with sunburnt dancers, making them look purple and puce. The last time we had a heatwave we ended up with a scarlet Wilis in *Giselle*. We simply can't give roasted swans to the public this season."

The catalogue that accompanies the sale of more than 40,000 relics from the Windsors' Paris home in the Bois de Boulogne shows a lack of good table manners that would have appalled the former King. Much time has been taken to re-create place settings at the Windsors' dinner table but someone has positioned the spoons across the



top of the plates. Says a sheepish Sotheby's minion: "Clearly the perpetrator is a better photographer than he is butler, but we won't hold that against him."

Pool pooch

THE hounding of Kevin Maxwell continues. Katie Firth, of Stock Row near Henley, spent last week looking for her missing dog, Bengo. Eventually, the mutt turned up, safe. It had spent the time happily practising its doggy paddle in Maxwell's swimming pool on the other side of the Thames.

Neighbours twice reported seeing the dog in his pool at 3am after being woken by splashing. "It was such a relief when we found her," Firth says. "The vet said she would be all right." There was some be-

lief at how the dog had managed to cross the river, but her laps of the Maxwell lido suggest she is not afraid of getting her paws wet.

Widening role

HOW heartening it is to see that between holding press conferences and photo calls, the Prime Minister has had time to enjoy the local flavour of the countries he has visited on his dual location holiday. Not for him a vacation lazing by the pool. He has played football against a local team and walked in the countryside. But most of all, the straining seams of his jeans sug-



Tony Blair: too much pasta?

gest, he has enjoyed exploring local restaurants.

Mediterranean marmas everywhere would be proud to see that Mr Blair has been filling out. It is not yet a beer gut but it appears that he has not recently been knowingly under-lunched. "He was tucking in with relish," says one who found himself sitting at an adjoining table to the PM at an hotel in San Gimignano, the other day. After Blair's failure to say *basta* after all that pasta, one dreads to think how much he will enjoy *magret de canard* (breast of duck), a speciality of St Martin D'Oydes.

Secret's out

BEST wishes to the Marquess of Milford Haven, who is to marry for the second time in a garden ceremony in Nantucket, Massachusetts, tomorrow. The Queen's cousin, known to his friends as Gorgeous George, is to wed Clare Wentworth-Stanley. She has also been married and is an occasional journalist: earlier this year she wrote an article for *The Express* about the hardship of being just too beautiful.

The Marquess's first wife, by whom he has two children, was Sarah, the daughter of the former British Walker tycoon George Walker. Their divorce has recently come



Wentworth-Stanley: marrying

through. Originally, tomorrow's ceremony was planned with the kind of secrecy one might find surprising from a popular chap who is a great-nephew of Earl Mountbatten and whose late father, David, was best man at the Queen's wedding to Prince Philip. But then, somehow, there was talk of *Hellol* and the Duchess of York coming and the word was out.

Kohl can't save EMU from itself

Daniel Johnson on the don who damns the euro

Unlike Tony Blair, Helmut Kohl does not normally interrupt his holidays in the dog days of August to speak to the press — let alone in a foreign language. After 15 years in power, the German Chancellor reckons he no longer has anything to prove. But on Sunday evening, a rare midsummer television interview was broadcast. For foreign consumption, the focus inevitably was on the single currency. Herr Kohl had a simple message: the euro will be a strong, stable currency. It was, he insisted, "a mistake" for the markets to assume that stability would be sacrificed in order to stick to the timetable for monetary union. To give stability anything other than top priority "is a price I will not pay".

Note the assumption that the stability of the new European currency is subject to the fiat of one country's leader. Yet Herr Kohl insists that the guarantor of the euro will be an "energetic, powerful" European central bank. It is an article of faith for Bonn that the new bank, based in Frankfurt, will be indistinguishable in economic doctrine or *modus operandi* from the Bundesbank. Any talk of a "soft" euro is dismissed as scurrilous rumour-mongering by the Eurosceptics.

Chancellor Kohl's reassuring promise of a stable single currency coincides, however, with the appearance of an alarming scenario from the pen of an Oxford economist of impeccable academic distinction, Dr Walter E. Williams. Published yesterday, his pamphlet (*The Creation and Destruction of EMU*, £7.50 from Centre for Policy Studies, 57 Tuford St, London SW1P 3QL) eschews ideological polemics, and is published by a think-tank whose director, Tessa Keswick, was Kenneth Clarke's Europhile political adviser. Even so, Herr Kohl will certainly ignore it.

Dr Williams begins by quoting a few of the warnings of Europhile businessmen such as Martin Taylor of Barclays and Niall FitzGerald of Unilever, or transatlantic observers such as Alan Greenspan and George Soros, none of whom has any political axe to grind. All are worried that EMU will be vulnerable to speculation. He then examines the creation of EMU, and argues that 11 member states will probably participate in the first wave, with only Greece, Denmark, Sweden and the UK staying out.

So large a membership will favour French rather than German leadership, and Dr Williams reminds us that the French once dominated a previous EMU-like experiment: the Latin Monetary Union formed in 1865. Using the French franc as the basis of a common currency, it included Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and Greece. After three decades, it collapsed because the French refused to issue a guarantee to the other members that, if the Union dissolved, they would be repaid the gold value of their reserves of silver francs.

This historical episode is not irrelevant to the main analysis, which concentrates on EMU's crucial transition phase from January 1, 1999, when the national currencies will be fixed against the euro, to December 31, 2001, after which the euro alone will remain legal tender. Dr Williams posits that the weaker economies will soon come under pressure because fixed exchange rates will allow investors to switch from, say, lire, into marks without penalty at the first sign of trouble. As money floods in, the Bundesbank will face a stark choice: buy lire and print unlimited numbers of marks, or face the certainty of an Italian departure from EMU.

The European bank will be impossible during this transitional phase, being able only to print euros, unless it can offer the kind of exchange rate guarantee that France refused to give a century ago. Citing Tito Congdon's research, Dr Williams points out that no such guarantee has been given, because only the national governments have the resources to give it. In its absence, the Bundesbank will also refuse to act as guarantor. If the European bank then orders the Bundesbank to print vast quantities of marks, such an order could be challenged in the German courts. Any delay would be instantly fatal. As Britain discovered in 1992, governments and central banks can be brought to their knees in a matter of hours by the sheer volume of speculation. And as soon as the markets sensed that a member state was vulnerable, the whole structure of EMU would totter: "there will be staggering opportunities for profit".

If Dr Williams is right, then Chancellor Kohl must give substance to the "energetic, powerful" European central bank for which he now calls. He must charm — or more likely cajole — the Bundesbank into submitting totally to the European bank. It must be clear before 1999, that Germany is ready to print as many marks as the European bank deems necessary. Of course, with an election due in autumn 1998, such a blank cheque would be political suicide in a country where two hyperinflationary years are still a living memory. But if Herr Kohl cannot put his money where his soundbite is, the single currency is unlikely to last even three years.



DIVIDED THEY STAND

Why the Bosnian Serb power struggle matters to the world

The British troops who mounted guard yesterday over a police station in Republika Srpska stood on the symbolic front line of a power struggle between Srpska's Serb leaders. In theory the troops are on a neutral mission, defusing a confrontation between rival Serb paramilitary police. In practice, they are protecting the authority of Srpska's embattled President, Biljana Plavsic.

The decision to do so has not come easily to America and its allies. In the corrupting aftermath of a catastrophic war it is hard to distinguish white from black. The issue is whether something akin to the rule of law can displace the opportunist bandits who now control life in the Serb part of the confederal Bosnian republic established under the Dayton accord. Respect for law is a precondition for the internal negotiations without which Dayton's goal of coexistence between Bosnia's three communities cannot be realised. The outcome of this struggle could thus determine the fate of the Nato-led peace mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

President Plavsic is certainly an improbable heroine, an extreme nationalist who in 1992 embraced the perpetrators of "ethnic cleansing". When her main opponent, Radovan Karadzic, was forced under the Dayton agreement to relinquish public office, she was his choice as a pliable substitute. But Mrs Plavsic has proved less than pliant. Under American pressure, she has declared her readiness to abide by the Dayton accords. And personally, her probity and political courage set her morally apart from the Pale trio of profiteering warlords whose unlawful reign she has vowed to end.

All over Srpska and at every level of administration, those most deeply implicated in wartime atrocities — and in the profiteering that accompanied the fighting — exercise control on behalf of these three. They are Radovan Karadzic, the indicted

war criminal and former President who still, in defiance of Dayton, pulls most of the levers of power; Momcilo Krajisnik, the old Karadzic ally whose membership of the tripartite Bosnian federal presidency is a huge obstacle to peace; and Dragan Kijac, whose estimated 30,000 armed security police are involved in everything from policing the black market to bugging the lines of the President and her allies.

Mrs Plavsic's decision to take a stand originated in a meeting last June with Madeleine Albright which convinced her that there was no alternative to Dayton. The next month, she astonished Serbians by publicly denouncing the Karadzic mafia for destroying the State, looting its revenues and reducing most Bosnian Serbs to "abject poverty". She demanded Mr Kijac's resignation as Interior Minister; and when he shrugged that off, exercised her constitutional power to dismiss the Srpska parliament dominated by Mr Karadzic's allies and call fresh elections in October.

The ruling overturning her decision last Friday by Srpska's constitutional court is a telling example of what she denounces as the "terror which prevents people from saying what they think". Jovo Rosic, a judge who had declared his support for the President, had been beaten up so savagely that he was absent in hospital. Mrs Plavsic has Western support in forging ahead with elections despite the court ruling. She could well lose, and she almost certainly will unless she has access to broadcast media to carry her message to Serb voters. That is practical help the West should provide, with installations under Nato guard. Hardline nationalist that she is, Mrs Plavsic is at least realistic enough to say of Richard Holbrooke, Bill Clinton's troubleshooter in Bosnia, that "American or not, we need him". In such realism lies what hope there remains of durable peace.

CRASHES AND BANGS

Stock markets are still overvalued

In the dog days of August, financial markets are as fractious as the tourists who tramp sweatily around Trafalgar Square. With many dealers on holiday, trading is thin and price movements correspondingly volatile. Anticipating a stock market crash has proved as enervating as waiting for the thunderstorm that brings to an end an oppressively hot and humid spell. Is a steep fall in share prices really as inevitable as the rain that clears the air at this time of year?

Yesterday, the crash failed to materialise, just as it had the previous Monday. The FTSE 100 index fell by just 30.8 points, even though the Dow Jones industrial average had posted its second-biggest loss ever on Friday. But the worldwide stock market boom will not last for ever. All the signs are that both Wall Street and London are overvalued and will soon undergo "correction". What Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, called "irrational exuberance" has been evident in both markets for more than a year. Between his outburst last December and the decline of the past week or two, American shares climbed by another 25 per cent. London has seen a similar bull run. It is hard to believe that such exuberance is justified by the underlying economic performance of the two countries.

In Britain, shares have been buoyed by a Labour Government that proved less threatening than expected and more fiscally responsible than was feared. Yet interest rates are rising, presaging lower growth next year, companies are putting out profit warnings and the strength of sterling is hurting exporters. A strong pound has lured foreign investors into the British stock market; but the same phenomenon is undermining the longer-term attractiveness of its shares.

Perhaps the most ominous sign is that people are starting to talk of a "new era" or a "new paradigm" in Western economies. Inflation has apparently been conquered and the boom-bust cycle brought to an end; shares have nowhere to go but up. These are dangerous predictions, which always seem to accompany the end of a boom, the hubris which is followed by nemesis. It is a feature of capitalism, in stock markets as in the real economy, that prosperity moves in cycles.

That is not to say that either the UK or the US is about to face a crash of the severity of 1987, when the FTSE fell by 23 per cent in two days and 32 per cent in a week. Stock markets could just as easily slide gradually over the next few months, ending the year roughly where they started. Nor is this correction likely to be on the scale of the slump that hit the Tokyo markets in 1990: seven years on, the Nikkei is still at less than half its level at the end of 1989. The UK stock market, by contrast, took only a couple of years to regain its 1987 levels after the crash, and now stands at double that 1987 peak.

If share prices fall again, they are more likely to follow Britain's recent precedent than Japan's. This would be a repositioning of overvalued shares rather than the bursting of a bubble that changes the whole psychology of investment. Shareholders in London and New York who want to catch the peak of the boom might be wise to sell their equities now and put their money on deposit for a while, where they can still earn decent real returns. But those who are holding shares for the very long term can afford to relax: their wealth is unlikely to be wiped out, and in a few years' time, any downturn now should look like not much more than a blip on the chart.

LABOUR'S ROCK POOL

The party's personalities are reflected in the sea

John Prescott is the Dr Doolittle of this Government. That is not a reflection on his idleness; few ministers toil as the Deputy Prime Minister does. Rather, Mr Prescott can talk to the animals. Yesterday, as the photographers captured so well, it was a crab. Asked about the chances of his colleague Peter Mandelson securing election to the party's National Executive Committee, Mr Prescott eyed his catch with his thick protective carapace, eyes permanently on stalks, long-limbed and laterally mobile, and asked "Well Peter, will you get on?"

Mr Prescott may have thought his *jeu d'esprit* would be quickly laughed off. Or perhaps, recognising the paucity of political news in August, he knew precisely how long, how very long, the laugh would last. Pundits even compared it to the famous time when Margaret Thatcher was reputed to have ordered steak while dining with the Cabinet. "What about the vegetables?" she was asked. "Oh, they'll have steak too," she replied — or so the culinary story goes.

Is Mr Mandelson a credible crab? He is certainly much more crab-like than the serpentine figure in which cartoonists delight. And the Labour Party is, altogether, like Cyril Connolly's *Rock Pool*, a struggle for supremacy captured in a watery metaphor. Mr Prescott is himself, clearly, a coelacanth — an ancient creature which should, by evolutionary logic, be extinct. His survival goes to show that natural and logical are very far from being synonyms. Tony Blair is, like the film star whalés Orca

or Willy, the biggest beast about. Like them, he inspires huge affection even though he is a ruthless predator capable of swallowing scores of individual plankton. Tory backbenchers and other brainless forms of life swept along by the tide.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is something of a shark. The pension companies and privatised utilities certainly think so. Like the shark, Mr Brown cannot rest and devours a huge amount every day. Anyone who has heard of Mr Brown on what he drolly calls "holiday", alternating between bouts on the tennis court and hours devoted to digesting works of Portuguese economics and Bolivian social theory, will appreciate how his metabolism matches the workaholic of the deep. The Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, is perhaps best cast as a dugong or manatee, a gentle mammal dangerously out of its depth. The Prime Minister's press secretary, Alastair Campbell, has to be a squid: no creature uses ink more aggressively.

Nowhere, however, is the smell fishier than in Scottish waters. Although Mr Blair may bask elegantly in Mediterranean climes, any number of little molluscs cluster unattractively around the waste pipe which is provincial patronage north of the border. Barnacles cling on for all their worth when they should be cleared decisively away. Urchins spread poison and creatures which should be all jelly lash out painfully. It is to be hoped that when Mr Prescott goes north this week he takes his shrimp-ping-net.

Pensioners' health policy 'shabby'

From Mr P. M. Elton

Sir, Having taken away the tax concession from pensioners who elect to pay private medical insurance, the latest blow now being trailed is that those of us with an income of over £18,000 pa may be "asked" — what a wretched word — to pay for our National Health Service prescriptions (report, August 14).

New Labour proposes to snatch the benefits from pensioners which they have paid for through their NI contributions all of their working lives — many of us since the Atlee Government introduced the scheme. I infinitely prefer old Labour, who would never have contemplated such a shabby idea.

Yours etc,
P. M. ELTON,
2 The Birches, Felsham Road,
Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
August 14.

From Mr Irving Luke

Sir, If the Government really wishes to expedite a reduction in hospital waiting lists it should cast aside party dogma and, instead of adopting the spiteful measure of abolishing tax benefits on private medical insurance for the over-sixties, encourage private healthcare by allowing tax relief for all subscribers to such schemes.

Yours faithfully,
IRVING LUKE
(Consultant ophthalmic surgeon),
44 Fairfax Road, NW6,
August 17.

Cost of medicines

From the President of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Sir, It is a curious argument which suggests that a seller is exploiting a hard-up buyer by offering to sell goods at a cut price. Yet when pharmaceutical companies reduce their prices to hospitals facing severe financial pressures to help them afford the medicines that their patients need, you suggest (report, August 12) that this is exploitation because patients may then ask their GPs for further prescriptions costing the full NHS price.

Yes, new medicines are more expensive. Companies now risk more than £200 million and 10 to 12 years of research into a new medicine before it reaches the patient. But far from costing "the NHS millions", as your headline suggests, medicines offer one of the real solutions to the funding problems the NHS faces by reducing or eliminating other forms of treatment.

At the same time the profits that pharmaceutical companies make on the sale of NHS medicines prescribed by both hospitals and GPs are rigorously controlled by the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme. The cost of medicines to the NHS remains far lower than in most comparable European countries, and British doctors also have one of the highest rates of generic prescribing.

We are now able to provide medicines to treat patients better and more quickly than ever before and to tackle conditions in the community much more effectively, often preventing the need for hospital admission. Many patients with heart disease, cancer, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and mental illness have benefited from recent advances.

The real shame is that patients do not always receive such new medicines which, in the long run, can actually save the NHS money and improve treatment.

Yours sincerely,
PETER READ,
President, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry,
12 Whitehall, SW1,
August 12.

Terrorism victims

From Mr R. J. Silburn

Sir, You report (August 13) that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has paid "millions of dollars" to the relatives of the man murdered on the *Achille Lauro*.

Would the IRA consider following this excellent precedent and start paying the relatives of their victims from their ample funds, which presumably will be no longer needed for expenditure on weapons?

Yours sincerely,
R. J. SILBURN,
10 Woodcote Hurst, Epsom, Surrey,
August 13.

Paul or Paula?

From Mr John Fletcher

Sir, In your report (August 12), "Orton's Beatles script is revived by Radio 3", you say that "Paul McCartney apparently did not feature in the script", unlike the other three Beatles. As the script's radio adaptor, I can confirm that he has a wholesome and life-enhancing part — as a woman, the Virgin Mary, no less — and is played in the production (to be broadcast on September 21) by the gifted and elegant young Irish actress, Miss Jacinta Mulcahy.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN FLETCHER,
Heronsgate,
Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset,
August 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Call for review of medical training

From Dr John K. Wales

Sir, I share an increasing concern with some of my colleagues about the future of medical education in the UK — a concern enhanced by the increasing demand for a reduction in junior doctors' working hours and by the suggested change in the funding of higher education recently announced by Professor Dearing.

The education of medical students is expensive. A good deal of this expense arises from the requirements of bedside clinical teaching and the length of the course. A reduction in clinical teaching in order to save money is likely to result in more theoretical teaching, as favoured by many European medical schools; it will also reduce the capabilities and clinical effectiveness of medical graduates and the professional aspects of patient care.

There are also concerns that clinical teaching is being undervalued by an undue emphasis on research ratings of medical schools. Many clinical teachers are not employed by universities but by the NHS. Their ability to support medical schools is being eroded by an ever-increasing clinical NHS load.

Motorway controls

From Mr Peter Gibbon

Sir, I suspect that the latest government proposals for restricting entry and/or exit on congested motorways (report, August 15) are yet another example of misquoting US experience in an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. The lights on controlled-access highways in the US alternate, during rush hours, between red and green every few seconds.

Their purpose is to limit the vehicles in the entrance lane to one at a time, avoiding bunching, or worse, stopping, where they join the main highway. As such, the lights are safety devices, not blocking devices.

It is difficult to understand why traffic already on a motorway should be regarded as more legitimate than that trying to join it. For example, the traffic on the section of the M25 between junctions 12 and 15 (one of the most congested in the country) could be reduced dramatically by closing all exits which served Heathrow traffic, forcing those vehicles to find another route.

This could also result in significant public purse savings: the Terminal 5

Medical education is unusual in university terms in that it is vocational: the vast majority of graduates take up paid employment with one employer, the NHS. Would it not seem more logical for the overall control of medical education to pass from the Department for Education and Employment to the Department of Health, or more ideally to an independent medical education authority?

I would therefore suggest that a review into the future of medical education, its structure, function, student recruitment, funding and possible expansion is established, perhaps as a royal commission. British medical schools must retain the ability to produce doctors who have not only the knowledge on which to base their postgraduate education but also the practical abilities to care for patients and maintain the standard of British medicine.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN K. WALES
(Senior Lecturer in Medicine and Honorary Consultant Physician),
University of Leeds,
Division of Medicine,
General Infirmary, Leeds LS1 3EX,
August 14.

inquiry would rapidly be forced to conclude that the infrastructure to support a new terminal wasn't forthcoming and thus neither should the terminal be. But what good would this serve, since the basic question would not be addressed?

Increase in national wealth is the primary factor in determining motorway demand. Increased wealth results in more private vehicles, the carriage of more goods and in more leisure travel, whether by private or public means. This primary determinant is increased by the "turnpike effect" (so-called because it was observed after the New Jersey Turnpike was built in the US in the 1950s) from which extra traffic, over and above that forecast, actually results from new roadbuilding.

The underlying demand, however, is a product of increases in our standard of living. Surely not even a Labour government is going to try and suppress greater national wealth?

Yours faithfully,
PETER A. GIBBON,
103 Church Street,
Staines, Middlesex,
open @btinternet.com
August 17.

Gauging humidity

From Mr D. B. Jenkin

Sir, Professor Maurice Crosland (letter, August 16) is quite right to stress that comfort in warm weather depends on the combination of temperature and humidity, just as the wind speed affects our perception of low temperatures.

Temperature and humidity can be combined into a comfort index, but there appears to be no international standard for calculating its value.

When I recently had to seek the advice of the Meteorological Office on the "comfort-index" values which it had produced for a newspaper many years ago, I was told that I had misunderstood the term and should call it the wind-chill factor. I had to convince

the office that wind chill was experienced in winter and comfort indices were needed in warm weather; and when I repeated my request, I was told that nobody at Bracknell had heard of the latter. They would carry out a literature search for a large hourly fee if I so wanted.

I fear that Professor Crosland has a long, hard task if he wants weather forecasts and reports to include the combined effects of temperature and humidity — unless he can persuade the Meteorological Office to consult its pensioners.

Yours faithfully,
D. B. JENKIN
(Gas and oil consultant),
30 Hare Hill Close,
Pyrford, Woking, Surrey,
August 16.

Room at the top

From the Chairman of the City of London Law Society

Sir, Dr Mike Wise (letter, August 15) appears to attribute the ills which he sees as besetting the country to the fact that solicitors, barristers and certain other professions draw their recruits from the most intellectually able graduates from the universities. He is wrong.

International companies write their contracts under English law and refer their disputes to England for resolution because they recognise the City of London as a centre of legal excellence.

One consequence of their doing so is that solicitors in the City of London

earned £502 million for the country in 1994, £511 million in 1995 and £526 million in 1996.

In order to maintain their pre-eminent position as a centre of legal excellence and to ensure that the profession continues to earn such large sums for the country as a whole, City firms seek, with some success, to attract and to retain the intellectually able.

It is unclear to me why Dr Wise should decry our success in doing so.

Yours faithfully,
A. PUGH-THOMAS,
Chairman,
The City of London Law Society,
65 Holborn Viaduct, EC1,
August 15.

Post-doctoral research

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRs

Sir, In her letter of August 13, Dr Shirley McCready made the most pertinent remark that the number of post-doctoral scientists working in British universities has trebled in the last 20 years. For any given amount of funding, there will be an optimal number of research workers. If the number is too low, some costly apparatus will be idle, if it is too high, many scientists will have to use poor equipment.

Moreover, if the number of claimants for limited funding is too large, an inordinate amount of scientists' time will be wasted on writing and refereeing grant applications that cannot be financed however good they are.

There can be little doubt that the British system now has many more claimants (including post-docs) for the available funding than would give the best scientific output. Reducing the number cannot be a quick or painless (or even fair) operation, but unless the need to do so is explicitly accepted, the future of British science looks bleak to me.

Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College, Cambridge.

Animate objects

From Dr G. L. Bolt

Sir, The "de-ranged" lawnmowers, alarmed parking meters and mad prawns (letters, August 12, 13 and 14) are surely outnumbered by the floods of disabled toilets.

Yours faithfully,
G. L. BOLT,
11 Nelson Street,
King's Lynn, Norfolk,
August 17.

From Mrs Shirley M. Large

Sir, Perhaps the alarmed parking meters and de-ranged lawn mowers are concerned at the threat of the "large plant crossing" roadways under construction.

Yours faithfully,
SHIRLEY M. LARGE,
Charleone Barn,
Little Wolford, Warwickshire,
August 13.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

No apologies over British India

From Mr Richard Westwood-Brookes

Sir, During this season of politically correct contrition over the behaviour of our forefathers in "oppressed" India (letters, August 15, report, August 18), perhaps it would be worth those who are so eager to seek constant apologies from the British bearing in mind that this nation at least appears to have learned vast lessons from past mistakes — which is more than can be said for many.

Great Britain has lived at peace with itself for more than 250 years and has striven to build a genuine multi-ethnic and multicultural society, which despite disparaging comment from certain self-interests continues to build with considerable success.

Perhaps those eternally demanding that the British should bow their heads in shame for the actions of those who lived, for the most part, long before we were born should be better employed in making such demands from people whose atrocities are within living memory — like the Japanese, the Chinese, the Russians, the Americans, many African states and of course the Indians themselves.

Yours,
RICHARD WESTWOOD-BROOKES.

The Old Post Office,
Ashford Carbonell,
Ludlow, Shropshire.

From Mr J. P. Govindia

Sir, I would like to thank the British media for their excellent coverage of the 50th anniversary of the independence of India and Pakistan.

For the many people from the sub-continent who have been welcomed in this country and prospered here, the generous coverage really shows the magnanimous character of the British people. It is hard to imagine any other former ruling nation making the same effort to celebrate such an occasion. For the younger generation of Asians the coverage provided a sense of pride and a balanced sense of identity. For many of the older generation, painful nostalgia.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. GOVINDIA,
63 St Andrews Drive,
Stammore, Middlesex,
August 15.

Hotels on the Rhine

From Dr Raymond Sharp

Sir, My recollection of the Petersberg Hotel is not quite as epoch-making as the events described in your report and Professor Roger Morgan's letter (August 6, 15). Soon after VE-Day, 936 Port Construction Company, Royal Engineers, of which I was second in command, was sent to the American Zone to remove all the demolished Rhine bridges between Remagen and Cologne. This was vital work to enable barge traffic to resume carrying food and other supplies for the German population.

My enterprising commanding officer took over the Petersberg Hotel as our company headquarters and re-manned of the hotel manager, still resident with his staff, to be shown Neville Chamberlain's room so he could occupy it. The manager threw open the first-floor bedroom door to reveal a large hole in the outside wall caused by an American army shell. My CO had to make do with the adjoining room.

We occupied the Petersberg Hotel for nine months, enjoying its luxury after hard days exploding depth charges to disperse the damaged bridges. My office was in a very natty Art Deco cocktail bar spurned by the CO, who installed himself in the more exotic gold, orange and black Chinese bar. The hotel cellar was at our disposal and to this day I still feel glutted with Rhine wine.

Yours sincerely,
RAYMOND SHARP,
6 Badgers Wood, Caterham, Surrey,
August 16.

Operating a retractor

From Dr Diana Griffith

Sir, The response to both Professor Gareth Jones and Dr Robert Bruce-Chwatt (letters, August 12) must be the classic description of an anaesthetist: "someone half asleep bending over someone half awake".

Yours etc,
DIANA GRIFFITH,
27 Southway, Totteridge, N20.

School food

From Mr P. W. Esling

Sir, The hard-boiled egg which Mr Simon Martin found in his bread and butter pudding (letter, August 11; further letters, August 12, 14 and 16) may have been a gastronomic treat, but at Cady Grange Grammar School, some 65 years ago, what the maths master ladled from the enamel soup tureen certainly was not. It was a well-worn string dishcloth.

What gave a certain poignancy to the moment was the fact that the master was just concluding the serving of seconds.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. ESLING,
3 Llysnewydd Cottages,
Drefach Felindre,
Llandysul, Cardiganshire,
August 15.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
August 18: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, this evening visited the Stakis Royal Deeside Hotel, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, and accepted a

cheque representing funds raised for the Society by the staff and guests at Stakis Hotels throughout Scotland. Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Captain Colin Farquharson of Whitehouse).

Birthdays today

The American President celebrates his 51st birthday today. Commandant Daphne Blundell, former director, WRNS, 81; Mr Gordon Brand, Jr, golfer, 39; Lord Cockfield, 68; Mr John Deacon, guitarist and songwriter, 46; Mr K.H.M. Dixon, former chairman, Rowntree, 68; the Marquess of Douro, 52; Mr C.J. Driver, Master, Wellington College, 58; Dame Rose Heilbrunn, former High Court judge, 83; Mr E.R. Howard, former Chief Master of the Supreme Court, 85; Professor Sir David Hopwood, geneticist, 64; Mr Stephen Hughes, MEP, 45; Mr Richard Ingram, former Editor, Private

Eye, 60; Mr C.W. Jones, corporate property strategist, 56; Mr David Lodge, actor, 70; the Right Rev Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, 48; Mr Michael Ober, former Keeper of Public Records, 65; Mr Willie Shoemaker, racehorse trainer, 66; Mrs Phyllida Stewart-Roberts, former superintendent-in-chief, St John Ambulance Brigade, 64; Mr G.W. von Mallinckrodt, president, Schroders, 67; Dr G.E. Watkins, chairman and managing director, Conoco UK, 54; Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, 83; Mr Henry Wyndham, chairman, Sotheby's UK, 44.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Colin Lawler, Curate, Moulscroft (Chichester); to be Team Vicar (same diocese).
The Rev Nicolas Leigh-Hunt, Team Vicar, Wexcombe (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Pewsey Deanery (same diocese).
The Rev Judy Lynas, Assistant Curate, Lychett Minster (Salisbury); to be NSM Curate, Longleat (same diocese).
The Rev Ralf Mann, Priest-in-Charge, Broadwell, Evesham, Oxfordshire, and Adlestrop (Gloucester); to be NSM Priest-in-Charge, Upton St Leonards (same diocese).
The Rev William Marston, Team Vicar, Gosspore Green (Chichester); to be Priest-in-Charge, Middleton-on-Sea St Nicholas (same diocese).
The Rev Jonathan Meyrick, Team Rector, Tisbury (Salisbury); to be also Rural Dean of Chalke Deanery (same diocese).
The Rev Jacqueline Mould, Assistant Curate, Drumragh in Mountfield (Derry & Raphoe, Church of Ireland); to

be NSM Curate, Kinson (Salisbury).
The Rev Jeremy Mould, Curate, Drumragh in Mountfield (Derry & Raphoe, Church of Ireland); to be Curate, Kinson Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Bill Musk, Team Vicar, Maghull (Liverpool); to be Vicar, Holy Trinity & St Manthias, Tulsa Hill (Southwark).
The Rev Hugh Palmer, Associate Vicar, Fulwood (Sheffield); to be Vicar, same field.
The Rev Robert Parrish, Assistant Curate, Leckhampton St Philip and St James in Cheltenham St James (Gloucester); to be Priest Vicar, Landaff Cathedral.
The Rev Graham Plastow, Vicar, St Michael, Enfield (London); to be Rector, Monken Hadley (same diocese).
The Rev Mark Prevett, Rector, Blaina and Nantglo (Monmouth); to be Team Vicar, Malesowen with special responsibility for Lapa (Worcester).



Mists Rising off the Arran Hills by William McTaggart, one of the works shipped to South Africa

Reminders of the auld country auctioned

By JOHN SHAW

PICTURES collected by a South African industrialist to bring back memories of his Scottish childhood are expected to fetch more than £100,000 at auction in Perthshire.

Thomas Kirkness loved his homeland from afar and had 26 paintings sent out to Pretoria from 1929 to 1935. They include eight by William McTaggart (1835-1910), the Scottish landscape painter. The collection goes under the Sotheby's hammer at Glencleaves Hotel on August 26.

Mr Kirkness's father John was born near Kirkwall on Orkney and his mother came from Leith. They emigrated

to South Africa and founded a building and brick-making business there in the 1880s.

Thomas was born in the Orange Free State in 1886 but was educated in Scotland, first at Kirkwall and then in Edinburgh. It was an upbringing he never forgot, even when he returned to the family business.

As the firm prospered he began to buy paintings by Scottish artists. Although unable to return himself, he employed two firms of dealers to act for him. They were sent plans of Mr Kirkness's home in Pretoria and he specified the size and style of pictures he wanted for different rooms.

Paintings shipped out included a £45

McTaggart oil entitled *Breeze Day* now expected to make £5,000-£7,000. A £120 McTaggart oil entitled *Children on the Shore* is forecast to make £20,000-£30,000.

After the painter became known to a wider audience, the industrialist paid £500 for *Mists Rising off the Arran Hills*, now estimated at £30,000-£50,000. It was painted at Carradale on Kintyre where McTaggart spent the summers of 1883 and 1885. He travelled in the summer and early autumn of nearly every year to paint seascapes and moved from Edinburgh to Broomieknowe in 1889. He spent the rest of his life there and the local countryside became an important source of inspiration.

University news

Research Fellow in Chinese Studies.
Deborah Cherry, at present Senior Lecturer in the History of Art at Manchester University, to a Professorship in the History of Art from September 15, 1997.

The following have been promoted to professorships from July 1, 1997.

Paul Gough, Reader in Electronic Engineering and Computer Studies, to a Professorship in Space Science in

the School of Engineering.
Michael Hobday, Senior Fellow, to Professorial Fellow in the Science Policy Research Unit.

Nicholas von Tunzelmann, Reader, to a Professorship in the Economics of Science and Technology in the Science Policy Research Unit.

Peter Way, Reader, to a Professorship of American History in the School of English and American Studies.

Michael Pendlebury, Reader,

to a Professorship in Experimental Physics in the School of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Science.

New appointments
Brian Roberts, Professor of Engineering, to be Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

Michael Hawkins, Reader in History in the School of English and American Studies, to be Director of Student Services.

Marc Williams to be Director of the Graduate Research Centre for the Comparative Study of Culture, Development and the Environment.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: James Crichton, the "Admirable Crichton", athlete, scholar, poet and linguist. Eilock, Dumfriesshire, 1500; Gerbrand van den Eeckhout, painter, Amsterdam, 1621; John Dryden, Poet Laureate 1670-89, Northampton, 1631; John Flamsteed, first Astronomer Royal 1675-1719, Derby, Derbyshire, 1646; John Brand, antiquary and topographer, Washington, Co Durham, 1744; James Hall, historian and poet, Philadelphia, 1793; James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer, Edinburgh, 1808; Charles Doughty, traveller in Arabia, Leiston, Suffolk, 1843; Orville Wright, pioneer of aviation, Dayton, Ohio, 1871; Georges Enesco, violinist and composer, Livron, Romania, 1861; Gabrielle (Coco) Chanel, fashion designer, Issoudun, France, 1883; Arthur Waley, orientalist, London, 1889; Ogden Nash, writer of humorous verse, Rye, New York, 1902.

DEATHS: Augustus, Roman Emperor 27BC-AD14, Nola, near Naples, AD14; Andrea Palladio, architect, Vicenza, 1580; Blaise Pascal, philosopher, Paris, 1662; Jan De Witt, republican, assassinated in The Hague, 1672; Robert Bloomfield, poet, Sheffield, Bedfordshire, 1823; Sir Martin Archer Shee, President of the Royal Academy 1830-45, Brighton, 1850; Charles Gerhardt, chemist, Strasbourg, 1856; George Smith, archaeologist, Aleppo, Syria, 1876; Richard Burdon Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane, creator of the Territorial Army, Cloan, Tayside, 1928; Sergei Diaghilev, impresario, Venice, 1929; Sir Henry Wood, conductor of the Proms concerts 1895-1944, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, 1944; Subhas Chandra Bose, Indian nationalist, Taiwan, 1945; Groucho Marx, comic actor, Santa Monica, California, 1977.

The first English colonists arrived in America on the coast of Maine, 1605.

Gary Powers, the American U2 spy-plane pilot, was sentenced to ten years' detention by a Soviet court, 1960.

Poland became the first country in Eastern Europe to end one-party rule when Solidarity's Tadeusz Mazowiecki became Prime Minister, 1989.

The Prince of Wales will open the Children's Memorial Playground at Stirling Royal Infirmary NHS Trust, Livilands, Stirling, at 3.00.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr G. Curtis-Raligh and Miss H. Postan
The engagement is announced between Giles, eldest son of the late Judge Nigel Curtis-Raligh and of Dr Jean Curtis-Raligh, of Hammersmith, London, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ropchand Postan, of Swindon, Wiltshire.

Mr A.J.W. Jewhurst and Miss S.M. Gerard-Pearse

The engagement is announced between Allen, son of Mr and Mrs John Jewhurst, of Whitstable, Kent, and Sara, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruce Addison, of Vancouver Island, Canada.

Mr A.R.B. Shepherd and Miss C.A.B. Strick

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Giles Shepherd, of Nether Wallop, Hampshire, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Baker Strick, of New York City.

Mr G.W. Barker and Miss E.R. Sherlock

The marriage took place on Saturday, August 16, 1997, at All Saints Church, Gosforth, of Mr Guy Barker, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Barker, of Holbrook, Suffolk, to Miss Emma Sherlock, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Sherlock, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne. Canon John R. Little officiated.

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BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

APPLEBY - W. Philip, 80, died on August 16th, 1997, after a short illness. He was the husband of the late Mrs. Appleby, nee Jones, and the father of Mrs. Appleby, nee Jones, and the father of Mrs. Appleby, nee Jones.

ARMED - On 14th August 1997, to Angela Virginia (née Yearwood), a wonderful son, Max Yearwood.

ALSHAM - On August 14th at The Portland Hospital, a daughter, a beautiful daughter, Ella.

ASHLEY - On 29th July to Lucy (née Cook) and John, a daughter, a beautiful daughter, Ella.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL ANNUAL - On August 15th 1997, to Marie (née Jobb) and Anthony, a daughter, a beautiful daughter, Ella.

ALL ANNUAL - On August 15th 1997, to Marie (née Jobb) and Anthony, a daughter, a beautiful daughter, Ella.

OBITUARIES

CONLON NANCARROW

Conlon Nancarrow, American composer, died in Mexico City on August 10 aged 84. He was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on October 27, 1912.

Conlon Nancarrow was one of this century's most original and fascinating composers. Using the antiquated technology of the mechanical player piano, doggedly punching his own piano rolls hole by hole, he produced innovative music of great rigour and complexity that was at the same time humorous, accessible and highly dramatic. An individualist who spent much of his life in Mexico, out of the mainstream of modern musical life, he nevertheless had a far-reaching influence on contemporary music, with such leading composers as György Ligeti and Elliott Carter among his many admirers.

Conlon Nancarrow was born on the border of Texas and Arkansas in the appropriately named town of Texarkana, where his father was a businessman who later became mayor. Nancarrow had a fiery and rebellious nature which his father tried to subdue by sending him to military school. This turned out to be a mistake, because Nancarrow, already a trumpet player, became interested in music — particularly jazz, which was to be an important influence in his own work.

In desperation his father sent him to Vanderbilt to study engineering, but he soon dropped out and decided to go to Cincinnati to pursue his musical interests. There he heard and was influenced by Earl Hines, Art Tatum and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. He also got married, to Helen Rigby in 1932; he was 20; she was 16.

Next Nancarrow went to study counterpoint with Roger Sessions in Boston, where he also discovered politics. It was the time of Roosevelt and the "New Deal", and a time when the Communist Party appealed to a wide range of American artists and intellectuals. Nancarrow involved himself in fundraising for the Communists and when the party came to recruit for people to fight in the Spanish Civil War, Nancarrow joined the Lincoln Brigade. It was both a crucial and mysterious

episode of his life, a time of hunger, illness, wounds and dramatic retreats and escapes. Back home in Texarkana he was lionised and celebrated as a local hero.

Soon afterwards he moved to New York, where he immediately became involved in the contemporary music scene and where he met and became friends with Aaron Copland and his near contemporary, Elliott Carter.

But Nancarrow became increasingly disillusioned both with mainstream communism and with the few concert performances of his increasingly adventurous music. The last straw came when he discovered that some of his former comrades had been refused exit visas by the State Department because of their Spanish Civil War record. Nancarrow was refused one too, as a "premature anti-Fascist". Since without a visa a US citizen could only go to Canada or Mexico, he emigrated to Mexico City, where the climate and politics were more to his liking and where the US dollar went a long way.

Nancarrow began to wonder how he could do without live performers, and thus ensure perfect performances whenever his music was played. So when in 1947 he received an inheritance from his parents, he went to New York to buy a player piano and have a machine custom-made which would enable him to punch his own piano rolls.

Back in Mexico, Nancarrow was now set up for the great work of his life, the *Studies for Player Piano*, a modest title for a vast achievement. There are now more than fifty *Studies*, ranging in duration from one to ten minutes.

Each *Study* is an exercise in counterpoint and, particularly, canon. The thoroughness with which Nancarrow explored this type of construction can only be compared to Bach, his favourite composer and, along with Stravinsky and jazz, the most important influence in his music.

Pitch and time relationships, and especially the relationships between different speeds, are Nancarrow's chief concerns in the *Studies* — but this is to make the music sound dry and unappealing, where in fact it is uniquely exhilarating and full of humour and drama.



In *Study 21*, the so-called Canon X, one voice starts slowly in the bass while a fast voice begins in the high register. The two voices speed up and slow down respectively until they cross at a certain place (hence the title) and by the end, the fast one has slowed down and the slow one has speeded up to an incredible tempo, to dazzling effect.

As he went on, the mathematical relationships Nancarrow used became increasingly complex, with accelerations, irrational numbers and mind-bending three-part *Studies* like Nos 41a, 41b and 41c, where 41c is 41a and 41b played simultaneously on two player pianos. It is music that

rejects Romanticism but paradoxically seems all the more passionate because of that.

The compositional process was extremely laborious, and much thought went into the structure of each *Study* before the actual work of punching the blank paper roll began, where each of the many thousands of holes had to be done by hand, one at a time.

Nancarrow estimated that ten hours' work went into eight seconds of actual music. One result was that Nancarrow's left forearm — his left arm operated the lever on the punching machine — resembled Popeye's another is that the *Studies* are masterpieces of concentrated composition. Using this obsolete technology, Nancarrow transcended his medium and wrote some of the most original and dazzling music of the century.

In 1947 Nancarrow married the artist Annette Margolis, with whom he had a son (his first wife had divorced him when he was reported missing in action in Spain). Through Margolis, Nancarrow came to know many of the artists working in Mexico, including Diego Rivera and his wife, Freda Kahlo, but it was a stormy marriage which ended in 1951. Around 1960-61 Nancarrow went into a depression and for the next 19 years lived with his pianos and his Scotch bottle. These

years were finally opened. From then on, Nancarrow's life changed to that of practically any successful late 20th-century composer: tours, interviews, documentaries followed, and he began to write for human beings for the first time since the Forties. The Third String Quartet and the three *Canons* are arguably less successful than the *Studies*, whose superhuman qualities seem to be the essence of Nancarrow.

Inevitably, the question of repatriating to the US came up, but Nancarrow refused to tolerate the public recantation of his politics which would have been necessary. So he continued to live in a quiet suburb of Mexico City until his death.

He is survived by his third wife, the Japanese anthropologist Yoko Segura, whom he married in 1970; by their son; and by the son of his second marriage.

HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH

Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Bergh, former head of the South African Bureau of State Security (Bos), died on August 16, aged 82. He was born on November 27, 1914.

WHEN South Africa's apartheid Government at the peak of its power in 1969 brushed aside all opposition and established the Bureau of State Security, the nation at first saw it as something of a joke. Its purpose, said the Government, was to merge civil and military security organisations to deal with the increasing terrorist threat against the country.

But soon, the sweeping powers awarded to it, with the threat of a seven-year prison sentence against anyone who communicated information about the new bureau prejudicial to the State or its security, dismayed the press, the tiny parliamentary Opposition, several Bar Councils and academics.

And the joking stopped as it was quickly perceived what a sinister organisation John Vorster, then prime minister, had set up. It was headed by one of his closest confidants, Lieutenant-General Hendrik van den Bergh, head of the security police and also his personal security adviser.

Van den Bergh, 6ft 5in tall, and known to his associates as "Lang [tall] Hendrik", was a gaunt-looking man, as sinister in aspect as the organisation he headed. Several years earlier his investigations into anti-apartheid activities had led to the Rivonia trial at which Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for sabotage and plotting to overthrow the Government.

Hendrik van den Bergh was born on a farm near Vrededorp in the Orange Free State and joined the police force straight from school. He and John Vorster were both interned during the Second World War as members of the Ossewa Brandwag, a fanatical neo-Nazi Afrikaner organisation that carried out a violent campaign against South Africa's support for the Allied cause.

After the war van den Bergh rejoined the police. Under his direction in the early 1970s

Boss agents were particularly active in Britain, where it was claimed that they collaborated with a dissident faction in the British secret service with the aim of discrediting the Labour and Liberal parties on account of their opposition to any links with the apartheid regime.

Boss successfully penetrated exiled South African political organisations, notably the African National Congress, and kept close watch on individuals engaged in anti-South African activities.

But the task of Boss was also to curb the influence of the South African military which Vorster, a former Minister of



Police, distrusted. By the time he fell from power in disgrace in 1979, after the disclosure that taxpayers' money had been secretly used for clandestine propaganda projects, Boss had increasingly become a political network, spying on anybody considered to be an enemy.

Vorster was replaced by P. W. Botha, who surrounded himself with military generals. In the National Security Council intense rivalry developed between military intelligence and Boss which was renamed the National Intelligence Service. Soon afterwards, van den Bergh went bitterly into retirement and farming. He re-emerged briefly during South Africa's last whites-only general election in 1987, when he stood unsuccessfully as a candidate for the right-wing Conservative Party formed by breakaway Nationalists.

Hendrik van den Bergh's first wife, a Welsh woman, died during his internment. He leaves five children by his second wife, Katie, who died in March.

PERSONAL COLUMN

INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

Country	BT Int'l Daytime	WORLDCALL Anytime	Country	BT Int'l Daytime	WORLDCALL Anytime
Japan	77p	26p	USA	23p	10p
Hong Kong	54p	39p	Austria	39p	28p
Malaysia	77p	50p	Nigeria	£1.05	67p
Philippines	£1.08	55p	Ghana	£1.31	67p
Pakistan	£1.33	80p	UAE	£1.02	55p
India	£1.20	60p	Egypt	£1.26	68p
Sri Lanka	£1.33	88p	Russia	79p	59p

All rates shown per minute including VAT — All Worldcall calls charged per second. Simply dial directly through the Worldcall Exchange to ensure amazing savings to over 240 countries. * Special offers require set programmes. PBO European service up to 72 hours day in France.

UK HOLIDAYS

FLATSHARE

SITUATIONS VACANT

SITUATIONS WANTED

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Choose your fantasy team

HOW TO PLAY

- You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager.
- You must pick 1 GOALKEEPER, 2 FULL BACKS, 2 CENTRAL DEFENDERS, 4 MIDFIELD PLAYERS, 2 STRIKERS, 1 MANAGER.
- You must not exceed your budget of £35 million. You must not pick more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If after a real-life transfer, you find you have three players from one club in your team, you must sell one of them. No player may be picked twice.
- Players and the manager must be chosen from Interactive Team Football category lists, which include code numbers and values.
- Your players and manager will accumulate points in all 1997-98 matches in the FA Premier League, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennent's Scottish Cup from Saturday August 9 onwards.
- The team with the most points at the end of the season will win the £50,000 first prize. You may enter as many teams as you like whenever you like. Readers entering a mini-league should tick the box on the application form. There is no additional charge.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

POINTS AWARDED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Keeps clean sheet (per half)** +3 points
 - Scores goal +20 points
 - Saves penalty +1 point
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Keeps clean sheet* +3 points
 - Scores goal +4 points
- MIDFIELD PLAYER**
- Keeps clean sheet* +1 point
 - Scores goal +3 points
- STRIKER**
- Scores goal +2 points
- ALL PLAYERS**
- On winning side +1 point
 - Appearance† +1 point
 - Scores hat-trick +10 bonus points
- MANAGER**
- Wins +3 points
 - Draws +1 point

** Must have played a complete half in the match to earn +3 points
* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match † Must have played for 45 minutes in the match

POINTS DEDUCTED

- GOALKEEPER**
- Concedes goal -2 points
- FULL BACK / CENTRAL DEFENDER**
- Concedes goal -1 point
- ALL PLAYERS**
- Sent off -3 points
 - Booked -1 point
 - Concedes penalty -1 point
 - Misses penalty -1 point
 - Scores own goal -1 point
- MANAGER**
- Team loses -1 point

TRANSFERS

Each team entered by August 9 will be allocated 20 transfers. The transfer allocation will be decreased by 3 transfers each time a team registers on that day will be allocated 20 transfers for the season. Registered after this date will be allocated 20 transfers for the season. To transfer will appear in *The Times* regularly during the season.

HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

- **FOR POST AND FAX** See the entry form for details.
 - **BY TELEPHONE:** 0891 405 011 (UK) +44 990 100 308 (Rest of the world)
- Select your team and follow the simple step-by-step instructions. You will be asked to select your players and manager. You will be asked to enter your team name (no more than 16 characters). Finally you will be asked to enter your identification number (PIN). Calls cost 50p per minute.
- **BY the Internet** ITF is available on *The Times* website (<http://www.times.co.uk>). The internet version enables you to enter the game and play online and check your team's progress. You access to league tables, fixture lists, player records and your team's history.
 - **BY LineOne** You can enter ITF free on LineOne. This includes all transfers and checking throughout the season. For your software which includes one month's free membership of LineOne plus ten hours' access to LineOne and the Internet call 0800 111 210. For more information visit the LineOne website at www.LineOne.net.
 - **BY Sky Sports Interactive** Play ITF with Sky Sports Interactive on 0891 770 700 (calls charged at 50p per minute). Details on Sky Text page 118.

£100,000 WORTH OF PRIZES TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER YOUR TEAM

QUERY NUMBER: 01582 702720

- **BY POST** Complete the entry form and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 (plus 10p postage) to: *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.
- **BY FAX** Complete the entry form and fax it to 0660 600 563 (calls cost 45p per minute, or 50p per minute if you are outside the UK). Enter your credit card details on the fax sheet (calls cost 45p per minute, or 50p per minute if you are outside the UK).

TEAM NAME																
Goalkeeper																
Full back																
Full back																
Central defender																
Central defender																
Midfielder																
Midfielder																
Midfielder																
Midfielder																
Striker																
Striker																
Manager																

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY ALL ENTRANTS

First Name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

Cheque / PO No. _____

This year ITF will incorporate separate mini leagues. Please tick the correct league(s) for your entry.

☐ ITF League ☐ Women's League ☐ Student League ☐ Youth League (Under 18)

Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

1. 18-24 ☐ 2. 25-34 ☐ 3. 35-44 ☐

4. 45-54 ☐ 5. 55-64 ☐ 6. 65+ ☐

How often do you read *The Times*?

Less than once a week ☐ 1-3 times a week ☐ 4-6 times a week ☐

How often do you read *The Sunday Times*?

Less than once a month ☐ 1-2 times a month ☐ 3-4 times a month ☐

Do you have a PC at home? Yes ☐ No ☐ If you do not wish to receive other offers from *The Times* Newspapers, please tick box ☐

Send your entry with £2 entry fee (entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland £10 sterling) to: *The Times Interactive Team Football*, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

FOR FAX ENTRY, FILL IN CREDIT CARD DETAILS BELOW

Fax your entry to: UK 0660 600 563

Credit Card Number _____ Expiry date _____

Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Name on card _____

Signature _____ Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Daytime Tel _____

* Calls cost 50p per minute

THIS IS NO FANTASY

- FREE Entry to The Times Interactive Team Football 1997!
- One month's FREE membership of LineOne.
- 10 hours FREE access to LineOne's minute-by-minute football news, and the Internet.

When it comes to playing *The Times Interactive Team Football* you can see that LineOne puts you ahead of the game. Not only does it give you all the latest results and match reports from Sky, but also all the news, commentary and analysis from *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and the Internet.

Through LineOne you can also chat to your competitors and seek the views of other football fans. You can even set up LineOne to bring you all the information about your own team as soon as it is available.

Who knows? With access to all this football information, winning the title might just become a reality.

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and be £50,000 champions



The new season is upon us — and so is your chance to play Interactive Team Football (ITF) in the hope of winning £50,000. Rarely has a season promised so much, with an array of dazzling talent from all around the world performing on the British stage, and the lure of the most glittering prize of all — the World Cup — at the end of it.

To match the excitement, ITF returns with a bigger and better game. The Times, in association with LineOne and Sky Sports Interactive, is offering you the chance to show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Cup, the Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League. That expertise will be rewarded with a £50,000 prize for the winning team selector plus £10,000 for the second prize.

and £5,000 for the team coming third. Then a further £1,000 goes to the selector of the best team of the month (plus a signed Mitre football, a Mitre sports bag and Premiership tickets).

Then there is the new FA Cup prize. Every team entered into the ITF league will automatically be entered into the FA Cup league. Points scored by your players in FA Cup matches will be entered both in the main ITF league and in the special FA Cup league. The winner of the FA Cup league will be awarded £10,000.

That is not all. New this year are three special mini-leagues running concurrently with the ITF league: a Women's League, the Mitre Students' League and the Dairy Crest Youth League for under-18s. The winning team in each category will win a trip for two to the World Cup in France next year. Monthly

SEVEN GOOD REASONS TO PLAY ITF

- More prize money — £100,000 worth of prizes to be won
- New FA Cup league with a prize fund of £10,000 for the winner, with automatic inclusion and no extra work or cost
- New mini-leagues for women, students and young entrants with separate monthly prizes and overall prizes of trips to the World Cup for each league winner
- 60 transfers with more flexibility for more control over your team
- Special hat-trick bonus introduced
- Revaluation of players: the value of players will go up and down through the season so, with careful selection, you can juggle your funds to buy more top names
- Easy to enter: six different ways (post, fax, telephone, Skytext, Internet and LineOne)

prizes of Premier League tickets, Mitre footballs signed by Stuart Pearce and Mitre sports bags will also be awarded in each league for the manager of the month.

In the Times ITF league, you are also pitting your selectorial skills against those in the know. With the support of the

ITF CHECKLINE

You can check your position in ITF by calling 0891 884643 (outside UK 44 990 200 532).

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

You may transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

The line is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a "9" and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

You may make up to four transfers per telephone call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

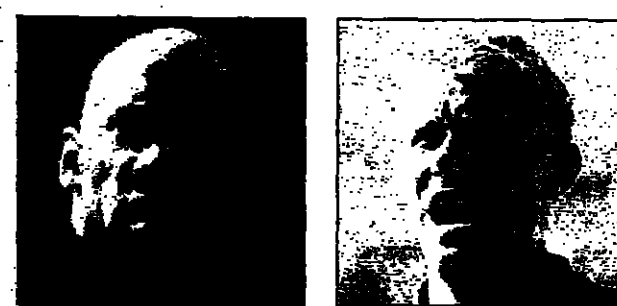
Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

Calls cost 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much. Transfer number: 0891 884 622. Outside the UK: +44 990 200 532.



Rush and Barnes, part of Kenny Dalglish's youth development policy at Newcastle

IN			
30504	Stephane Henchoz	Blackburn	22.00m
20203	Emmanuel Petit	Arsenal	22.50m
MOVED			
30501	Henning Berg	Manchester Utd	23.00m
42005	John Barnes	Newcastle Utd	22.50m



Dublin, left, and Schmeichel are early ITF leaders

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	0	0
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+8	+10
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	+8	+8
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	0
10601	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+8
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10801	E De Goeij	Chelsea	4.00	0	-5
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-5
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	1.00	0	0
11101	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	+2	+5
11201	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	0	+2
11301	S Dykstra	Dundee United	3.00	+2	+2
11401	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	+3	+3
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	-3
11601	G Rousset	Hartlepool	1.50	+3	+3
11701	C Reid	Hibernian	1.00	0	0
11801	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
11901	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+5
12001	K Keller	Leicester City	2.00	+3	+11
12101	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-3	-1
12201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+8	+16
12301	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12401	S Given	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+3
12501	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	0
12601	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-8
12701	M Taylor	Southampton	1.50	0	0
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	+8	+8
12901	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-3	-2
13001	L Mioduski	West Ham United	2.00	+3	+6
13101	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+2

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	0
20301	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	+5	+5
20401	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	0
20501	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	-3	-3
20601	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.50	-3	-3
20701	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	-3	-3
20801	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+4
20901	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	0
21001	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+5	+10
21101	P Valery	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+4	+9
21201	N Cox	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+5
21301	R Elliott	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+5
21401	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	-1	-1
21501	T McInlay	Celtic	3.50	0	0
21601	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	-1	-1
21701	G Leaux	Chelsea	4.00	0	-2
21801	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	0	-2
21901	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
22001	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1	-2
22101	B Borrows	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
22201	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
22301	D Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
22401	M Edworthy	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
22501	K Muscat	Derby County	1.50	0	0
22601	C Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	0
22701	D Yates	Derby County	2.50	0	0
22801	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	1.50	0	0
22901	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	0
23001	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	0	-1
23101	G Locke	Hartlepool	1.50	0	0
23201	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	0
23301	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	0	0
23401	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+1
23501	M Whitlow	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
23601	S Guppy	Leicester City	1.50	+1	+6
23701	S Bjornelyse	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
23801	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
23901	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.00	+4	+9
24001	G Neville	Manchester United	3.50	0	0
24101	P Neville	Manchester United	3.50	+4	+9
24201	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
24301	W Barton	Newcastle United	2.00	0	0
24401	J Berastford	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+1
24501	S Pearce	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
24601	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	0	0
24701	S Stanssens	Rangers	3.00	0	0
24801	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4
24901	T Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-2	-3
25001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.00	0	0
25101	F Besari	Southampton	0.75	0	0
25201	S Charlton	Southampton	0.75	0	0
25301	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
25401	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	-1	-4
25501	J Dickie	West Ham United	3.00	0	0
25601	A Impey	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
25701	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
25801	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
25901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	-5	-5
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30301	M Keown	Arsenal	3.50	0	0
30401	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	+5	+4
30501	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	-3	-3
30601	U Eholu	Aston Villa	3.50	-2	-2
30701	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	+5	+4
30801	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+4
30901	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	+5	+4
31001	G Poyet	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+2	+2
31101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+5	+7
31201	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	+5
31301	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0	+5
31401	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.00	0	0
31501	E Annoni	Celtic	3.00	0	0
31601	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	-3	-3
31701	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	0	0
31801	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	3.00	0	-3
31901	M Daberry	Chelsea	3.00	0	0
32001	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	-2
32101	B Lambourde	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
32201	L Dalt	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
32301	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-2
32401	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-2	-3
32501	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	+1
32601	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
32701	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	-1	-1
32801	I Stinae	Derby County	2.50	0	0
32901	J Lawrence	Derby County	1.50	0	0
33001	S Pressley	Dundee United	3.00	0	0
33101	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	+1	+1
33201	S Bille	Everton	3.00	0	-2
33301	D Watson	Everton	2.00	0	-1
33401	D Unsworth	Everton	2.00	0	0
33501	D Weir	Hartlepool	2.00	+1	+1
33601	J Hughes	Hibernian	1.50	-1	-1
33701	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+1
33801	G Hails	Leeds United	2.00	+1	+1
33901	R Moleaer	Leeds United	2.00	0	0
34001	L Radabe	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
34101	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.00	+5	+10
34201	P Kasmak	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+6
34301	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.50	+1	+6
34401	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-1
34501	D Matteo	Liverpool	3.00	-1	-1
34601	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
34701	D May	Manchester United	3.50	0	0
34801	G Pallister	Manchester United	3.50	+5	+10
34901	M Van Der Gaag	Motherwell	1.50	0	0
35001	P Albert	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+1
35101	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	0
35201	S Howie	Newcastle United	2.00	0	0
35301	A Platone	Newcastle United	3.00	+1	+1
35401	S Ponnal	Rangers	3.50	0	0
35501	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	0
35601	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	0
35701	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-3
35801	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	0
35901	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-4
36001	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	0
36101	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	0
36201	S Uvan Gobel	Southampton	1.00	0	0
36301	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	+5	+5
36401	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-1	-2
36501	J Scales	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	-4
36601	R Vega	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	-1	-4
36701	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
36801	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	2.50	+1	+2
36901	R Hall	West Ham United	2.00	0	0
37001	S Potts	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+2
37101	C Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0
37201	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	3.00	+1	+1
40201	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	+1	+3
40301	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	+2	+3
40401	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	+3	+3
40501	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.50	+1	+1
40601	R Parloer	Arsenal	2.50	+3	+4
40701	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	+1	+1
40801	M Draper	Aston Villa	4.00	+1	+2
40901	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+1
41001	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+1	+2
41101	N Redfern	Barnsley	3.00	+6	+10
41201	E Tinker	Barnsley	2.00	0	+1
41301	D Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	+2	+2
41401	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	+3	+4
41501	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+3	+6
41601	B McKelvey	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+5
41701	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
41801	G Fittroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+2	+5
41901	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+2
42001	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+3
42101	P Frandsen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+2

MIDFIELD PLAYERS					
Code	Name	Team	Cost	Week	Total
40604	M Johansen	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	0
40605	J Pollock	Bolton Wanderers	2.00	0	+3
40701	A Thom	Celtic	4.50	+4	+4
40702	P O'Donnell	Celtic	3.00	0	0
40703	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	0	0
40704	R Bliniker	Celtic	1.50	0	0
40704	C Burley	Celtic	3.00	+1	+1
40801	D Wise	Chelsea	4.00	0	0
40802	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	4.00	0	+1
40803	E Newton	Chelsea	2.50	0	0
40804	G Poyet	Chelsea	2.00	0	+1
40901	G McAllister	Coventry City	2.50	+1	+3
40902	T Solivett	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+3
40903	J Salako	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+3
41002	S Rodger	Crystal Palace	1.00	+1	+2
41003	D Pitcher	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
41004	P Warhurst	Crystal Palace	1.50	+1	+3
41005	A Lombardo	Crystal Palace	2.50	+1	+3
41101	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.50	0	0
41102	S Eranio	Derby County	2.50	0	+1
41103	D Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	0
41104	C Dailly	Derby County	1.50	0	+1
41105	R Van Der Laan	Derby County	1.00	+1	+1
41106	J Hunt	Derby County	1.00	0	+1
41201	R Winters	Dundee United	3.50	+1	+4
41301	A Smith	Dunfermline	2.00	+4	+4
41302	D Fleming	Dunfermline	1.50	+1	+1
41401	G Speed	Everton	3.50	0	+1
41402	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	0
41403	G Farrelly	Everton	1.50	0	+1
41501	N McCann	Hearts	2.50	+2	+2
41601	C Jackson	Hibernian	2.00	0	0
41602	B Lavety	Hibernian	2.00	0	0
41701	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	2.00	0	0
41801	D Hopkin	Leeds United	3.50	+1	+2
41801	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+2
41802	A Healand	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+1
41803	L Sharpe	Leeds United	2.50	0	0
41901	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	0
41902	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+4
41903	M Izet	Leicester City	2.00	+2	+5
41904	S Taylor	Leicester City	1.50	0	0
42001	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	+1	+2
42002	O Leonhardsen	Liverpool	4.00	0	0
42003	M Thomas	Liverpool	3.00	+1	+2
42004	J Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
42005	J Barnes	Liverpool	2.50	0	0
42006	P Price	Liverpool	5.00	+4	+5
42101	D Beckham	Manchester United	8.00	+4	+5
42102	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	+3	+6
42103	R Keane	Manchester United	5.00	+2	+5
42104	N Butt	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+5
42105	A Cole	Manchester United	5.00	0	0
42201	B Davies	Motherwell	2.00	0	0
42301	R Lee	Newcastle United	5.00	0	+2
42302	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.50	0	0
42303	D Batty	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+1
42401	B Laudrup	Rangers	8.00	0	0
42402	P Gascoigne	Rangers	6.00	0	0
42403	J Thern	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42404	J Alibert	Rangers	4.00	0	0
42501	B Carbone	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+4
42502	M Pembbridge	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+1
42504	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	+3	+3
42701	J Magilton	Southampton	1.50	+1	+2
42702	R Slater	Southampton	0.75	+1	+2
42703	N Maddison	Southampton	0.75	+1	+2
42801	A Sakerifloglu	St Johnstone	0.75	+3	+3
42901	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	0
42902	D Anderson	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	0	0
42903	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
42904	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+2
42905	D Ginola	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+1	+2
42901	E Berkovic	West Ham United	2.50	+5	+7
42902	S Lomas	West Ham United	2.50	+1	+3
42903	J Moncur	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+3
42904	M Hughes	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+3
43001	R Ardie	Wimbledon	4.50	0	+1
43002	N Earle	Wimbledon	2.00	0	+1
43003	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	0	0
43004	C Hughes	Wimbledon	1.50	0	0

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

5th

Stagecoach chief riding high in pay stakes



Brian Souter, a former bus driver, took home £3.55 million

By FRASER NELSON

BRIAN SOUTER, chief executive of Stagecoach, has joined the ranks of Britain's highest paid directors after taking home £3.55 million last year, including £3 million in dividends.

Ann Gloag, his sister, laid claim to be one of the best-paid women in the City after enjoying £2.72 million in salary, pension contributions and dividend payments.

In the year to April 30, when the company's profits almost trebled to £121 million, Stagecoach rewarded its direc-

tors by making them among the best paid in the country.

Brian Cox, who runs the South West Trains franchise, enjoyed a total package of £702,000 with a £10,000 bonus — even though the redundancy programme he oversaw led to the cancellation of 2,000 trains in February and March.

He pocketed £443,000 from cashing in share options before the trouble at South West Trains began.

If he remains with the company for a further four years, he will pick up a cash bonus of £500,000, provided

the group maintains modest earnings growth.

Sandy Anderson, a former British Rail manager who made £33.6 million when the Porterbrook train leasing company was sold to Stagecoach, was paid £150,000 in his eight months with the group. He has since decided to leave Stagecoach, after less than a year on the board.

Mr Souter's basic remuneration was £463,000, a 50 per cent rise on the £309,000 but still fairly average given the £1.7 billion size of the company. However, his tight grip on the company's shares

means he can expect to enjoy some £5.1 million in dividends this year and £6.2 million in 1998. Rather than dilute his holding, he has bought a further £1 million this year, taking his holding to 15.2 per cent.

The £2.72 million received by Ann Gloag, who chairs Stagecoach's bus operations in Kenya, did not contain any one-off bonuses.

By comparison, Carol Galley, vice-chairman of Mercury Asset Management, was the highest-paid female financier in Britain last year, picking up a £5.44 million package — but

only after cashing in £2.82 million of deferred bonuses. She is expected to earn around £2.2 million this year, while Ms Gloag is on course to pick up £4.22 million in dividend payments alone.

Mr Souter, himself a former bus driver, is with his sister ranked as the 28th richest person in Britain with a joint fortune worth £500 million.

In the last ten years, he has grown the firm from a local Scottish bus operator to become the largest transport group in Britain and the only one to generate organic passenger growth.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FTSE 100	4938.1	(-30.8)
Yield	3.9%	
FTSE All share	2287.37	(-15.03)
Nikkei	19041.10	(-284.93)
New York		
Dow Jones	7962.80	(-1.88)
S&P Composite	900.40	(-0.41)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	9 7/8%	(9 7/8%)
Yield	6.52%	(6.52%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month Interbank	7 1/8%	(7 1/8%)
Life long gilt	11 1/8%	(11 1/8%)
Future (Sep)		

STERLING		
New York	1.6090*	(1.6095)
London		
DM	1.6109	(1.6101)
DM	2.9396	(2.9275)
FF	9.8553	(9.8548)
Sfr	2.4320	(2.4164)
Yen	169.66	(168.47)
S Index	102.3	(102.1)

DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.8230*	(1.8180)
FF	5.1455*	(5.1315)
Sfr	1.5110*	(1.5025)
Yen	117.74*	(117.42)
S Index	105.6	(105.4)

Tokyo close Yen 117.31		

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	£18.95	(£19.10)

GOLD		
London close	£322.85	(£324.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

Siebe and APV trio part company

By FRASER NELSON

THREE directors of APV who were awarded share options worth £568,000 just days before they agreed a takeover from Siebe, have left the engineering company.

The three, Neil French, John Kennerley and Howard Stanworth, have left their positions with the food industry engineer as part of a management shake-up announced to the stock market yesterday. Compensation terms were not revealed.

The three were part of a team of four directors who agreed to and recommended to shareholders a bid for the food manufacturing equipment group. Only Richard Penny remains.

Mr Kennerley, formerly APV's finance director, left on completion of the acquisition in June. He would have left the company with £245,000 of share options, £128,000 of which were granted 19 days before the takeover was announced.

Mr Stanworth was also awarded £128,000 of free APV shares under what the company described as a "long-term incentive plan" in the days before the takeover. The holdings were approved at a shareholder meeting held after the merger was agreed.

A Siebe spokesman said the departures were part of inevitable head office integration after the takeover. He would not comment on the level of payoffs.

Budge under fire over pit closure

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government has ordered RJB Mining to justify the closure of the Asfordby super-pit, opened just two years ago at a cost of £320 million of taxpayers' money.

Closure of the Leicestershire colliery, announced yesterday with the loss of 490 jobs, was blamed by RJB on geological conditions. This was challenged by union officials. City analysts, meanwhile, questioned RJB's long-term financial prospects, alarmed by the company's apparent inability to safeguard the future of the pit.

As RJB shares fell to their lowest point since mid-1995, John Battle, the industry Minister, said: "I have asked the company to provide me with further details on the difficulties they face which have forced this decision."

Richard Budge, RJB chief executive, said: "We cannot sustain economic mining operations while providing a safe working environment for our workforce."

Asfordby has incurred losses of more than £36 million since it started operating in 1995 but made a small profit in the first six months of this year. It has produced 1.5 million tonnes of coal. British Coal, which began development of the mine, had hoped that it would produce 4 million tonnes a year.

In 1994 RJB paid £815 million for most of the pits in England

during the privatisation of British Coal, encountering little opposition from significant natural resources companies like Hanson and RTZ. Shares of RJB peaked at 590p in 1996 before falling sharply.

Union leaders yesterday suggested Mr Budge had ordered closure of the mine to force the Government to intervene in the market for coal, which is suffering because of competition from gas and cheaper imported coal.

The decision to close Asfordby has also been challenged by union leaders who will today send in their own engineers to assess the geological conditions. Neil Grestock, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said he would ask for government support and did not rule out a management buyout of the colliery.

RJB is currently negotiating new contracts with the electricity generators, knowing it faces a tough battle to meet its customers' demands to match the cost of gas and imported coal. Failure to reach agreement is expected to hasten the closure of many other mines.

Gerry Mousley, director general of the UK Coal Producers, said he would petition the Prime Minister for more support. He said Labour had not delivered what it had promised the industry while in opposition. A spokesman for RJB said the company was also disappointed that more backing had not been forthcoming from the Government.

Earlier this month the DTI approved the building of a gas-fired generation project, quashing hopes that it might enforce a moratorium on the fuel. The coal industry has been further critical that the project would be run by BP. Lord Simon, the Competition Minister, is a former chairman of BP.

More pressure for electricity generators to use cheap fuel will come from the regulator's next supply price review.

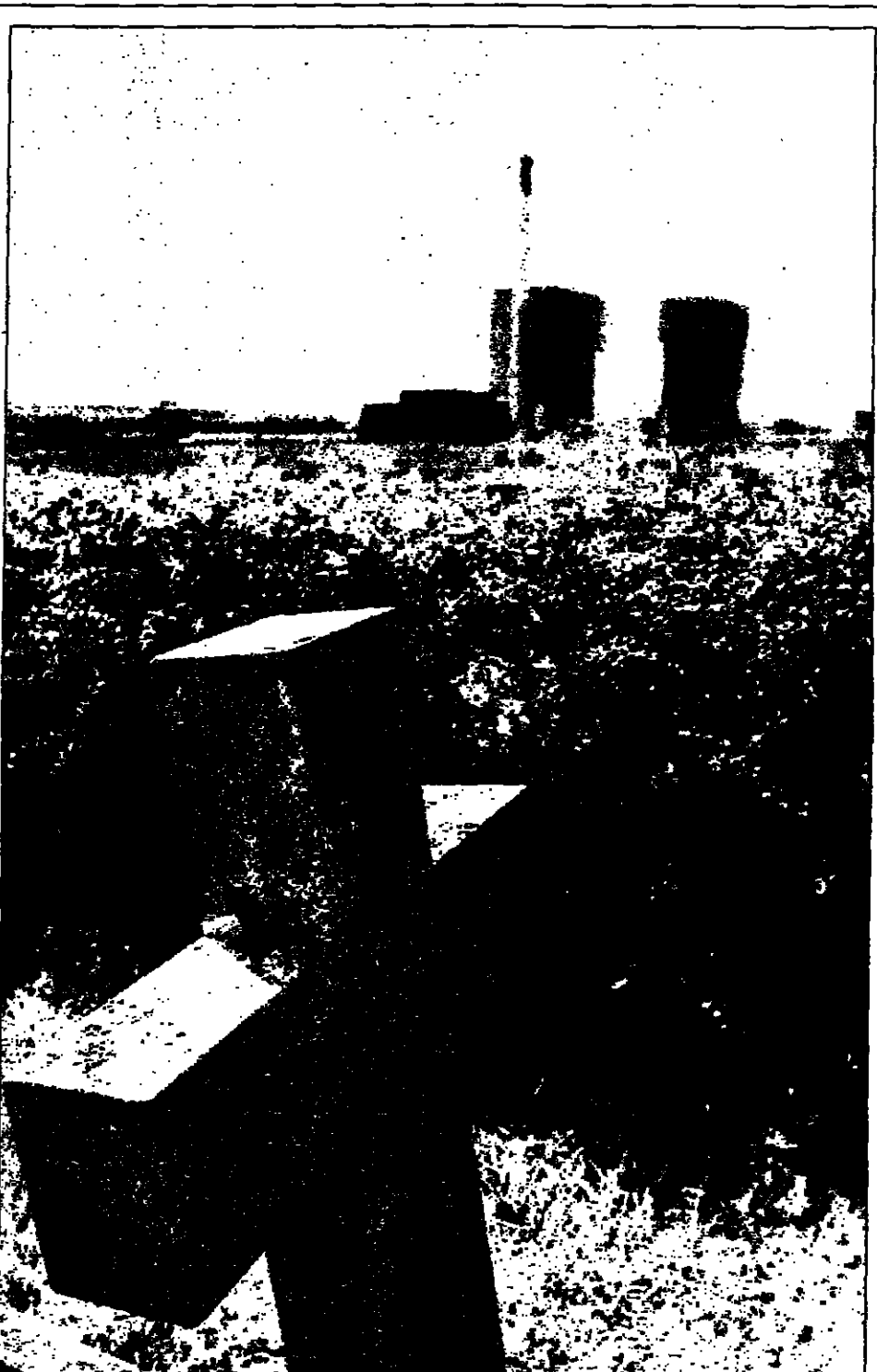
Miners bitter, page 7
Commentary, page 25
Tarnished crown, page 27

UNDERMINED

RJB share price

1993 94 95 96 97

200 300 400 500 600 700 800



The superpit at Asfordby opened just two years ago and cost taxpayers £320 million

Cruise line in talks to buy Cunard

By GEORGE SIVELL

A MIAMI-BASED cruise company has made an offer to buy Cunard, the shipping line that owns the QE2, but says it could not afford the high asking price.

Cruise Holdings said yesterday that it had held talks with Kvaerner, the Norwegian company that inherited the QE2 when it took over Trafalgar House last year.

Larry Magnan, the Cruise Holdings chief executive, said: "We have had some discussion with Kvaerner about Cunard. We would be very interested in Cunard. But at this point in time they are asking too much money for it, quite frankly."

Cruise Holdings operates five mass market cruise liners and yesterday said it would buy the Rotterdam liner from Carnival Corp of the US, the world's largest cruise line.

Markets repeat Monday calm

By GRAHAM SEARGEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

WEEKEND fear gave way to a second Monday of relief on most financial markets. Prices stabilised and little heavy selling was seen.

Share prices drifted gently down in London in a muted aftermath to the accelerating fall that hit Wall Street on Friday. Market-makers marked down prices about 1 1/2 per cent at the start, enough to deter sellers and attract some buyers in paddy trading.

After Wall Street opened quietly, London's FTSE 100

index ended a further 30.6 points, or 0.6 per cent, down at 4,938. But domestic investors remained sceptical. In contrast to Friday, when second-line stocks edged up, the FTSE 250 index dropped a shade more than blue chips.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average yo-yoed, moving up almost 30 points early on, then down 70 points. By late afternoon, the Dow had recovered to show a gain of 43.67 points to 7,738.33.

There were bigger losses in Far East markets, which had shut before Wall Street opened on Friday, and in those conti-

ental countries that shut on Friday for the Feast of the Assumption. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 index shed 1.5 per cent. In countries whose currencies are under attack, losses were greater. Malaysia's index fell 3.3 per cent.

The most reassuring development came in the latest statement from a member of the Bundesbank Council, who claimed a rise in interest rates would be damaging.

Hans-Jürgen Krupp gave a hint that Germany's central bank was unlikely to countenance a rate rise, either by allowing a flexible repo rate

today, or by shifting rates at Thursday's council meeting.

He said: "There is a good indication that a small rate hike would not have any weighty effect on exchange rates, and a larger hike, the effects of which would also be uncertain, would not be responsible given the domestic economic situation." Both the dollar and sterling edged up against the mark.

The US Federal Reserve Board is not expected to raise rates after its policy meeting, which starts today.

Market report, page 26

Consumers rescue public purse

By GRAHAM SEARGEANT

THE consumer spending boom is at last coming to the rescue of government finances, enabling the Exchequer to repay much more than expected in the tax-paying month of July.

Buoyant revenue from income tax, VAT and excise duties, if continued, will ease fears of a public spending crisis later in the financial year.

The Exchequer built a surplus of £3.88 billion on the month without any privatisation proceeds, more than twice the £1.8 billion repayment in

July 1996, which included £900 million asset sales.

Income tax of £8.18 billion in July was 12 per cent higher than a year ago. Corporation tax was up 14 per cent, reflecting growth in profits.

Even these gains were eclipsed by proceeds of VAT, which were 32 per cent higher at a monthly record of £5.03 billion in July as changes to the pattern of VAT payments washed out of the system. Tobacco also chipped in an extra £400 million.

At this stage, public spending also appears to be under firm control. Departmental

outlays in July were posted at £21.6 billion against £21.5 billion a year ago.

July's fiscal surplus was much bigger than the City expected. The median of forecasts was for a public sector borrowing requirement of £800 million. Gilt-edged stocks gained on hopes that the Treasury will not have to raise as much new debt as anticipated. The benchmark ten-year bond gained 5 1/2 to 110 1/2 p.s., to yield 6.99 per cent.

In the first four months of the financial year, the net PSBR is just £4.4 billion, down from £8.1 billion in the

first third of 1996-97. The June PSBR has been revised down by £200 million.

At this relatively early stage, the Government looks on schedule to meet its latest forecast of £10.9 billion for the full year. It will benefit from £2.4 billion this year from the levy on utilities, little of which will be spent in 1997-98.

Excluding privatisation proceeds, the deficit is also shrinking well. The borrowing requirement is £5.46 billion so far this year, against £10.4 billion a year ago.

Commentary, page 25

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BUSINESS RECOVERY

Housing market lull blamed on holidays

more than £2,000, rising to 7.3 per cent on balances of more than £200,000.

Royal Bank of Scotland said that it would put up its mortgage rate 0.25 per cent from next month.

The bank confirmed that it would increase its standard variable mortgage rate to 8.45 per cent after the base rate rise.

The Royal Bank of Scotland rate is now in line with the other leading lenders such as the Halifax and the Abbey National.

THE housing market has been hit by a "summer slowdown", according to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The report will fuel debate about whether the much-discussed recovery is faltering. It blames interest rate rises, the traditional holiday lull, and the Budget for stifling the housing market's progress last month. Its British house price figures from the Halifax showing that real estate house prices rose just 0.1 per cent in July and 0.5 per cent in June. The Halifax has rejected suggestions that the recovery is grinding to a halt and said this was a steady, healthy growth.

The RICS described the situation as a "slight pause" as people went on holiday, digested the contents of the July 2 Budget and speculated about interest rate rises starting in August. "These influences are expected to continue throughout August before the market rallies for the autumn," said the RICS. However, the market is expected to slow down next year with prices rising 6 per cent — as opposed to almost 10 per cent this year. Despite the summer lull, July saw a narrowing of the North-South divide on prices.

SAFEWAY, the supermarket group, launched a £20 million price-cutting campaign in a number of its stores in the week which its rivals are expected to follow.

Under its new "price protected" scheme, customers will be offered certain products free if they manage to buy them cheaper at a branch of Tesco, Asda or J Sainsbury within a three-mile radius. The scheme covers 650 "everyday" items.

The Sainsbury initiative knocked share prices in the sector. It closed down 7½p at 379p; J Sainsbury was down 7½p to 44½p, Asda 1½p to 148½p and Tesco 5p at 404½p.

Analysts said that much of the £20 million will come out of Safeway's existing advertising and promotion budgets, but they nonetheless trimmed their profit forecasts. BZW, Safeway's broker, cut its forecast for this year from £455 million to £450 million pre-tax profit, while NatWest Markets moved from £458 million to £449 million.

Tesco and Asda are considered the groups most likely to launch campaigns offering still lower prices than Safeway. There is a slight risk, however, that Asda's downward spiral, but it looks as if Safeway was mainly looking to make a pre-emptive strike," one analyst said.

Safeway, whose chief executive is Colin Smith, said it had launched the campaign because it had become aware that customers believe it has higher prices than its rivals.

Colin Smith intends the campaign to change shoppers' perception of Safeway prices

Naafi, which runs more than 200 armed forces clubs and pubs, has awarded a £5 million beer supply contract to Bass and Scottish Courage. The three-year contract, to be accompanied by a £15 million investment programme by Naafi in its premises, replaces a system whereby beer is supplied on a club-by-club basis.

Sevenfield reported strong growth in all of its divisions except Manabo, the food hygiene equipment company, which incurred a £902,000 loss.

Mr Davison said sales had been poor. The strength of the pound and the BSE problem had also hit the business.

The company's management is being reviewed and a disposal or sale are being looked at.

Temous, page 26

MORE than 270 workers at British Aerospace's Prestwick plant in South Ayrshire, Scotland, will today receive redundancy notices after the cancellation of a loss-making civil aircraft building programme.

BAe announced the end of the Jetstream 41 with the loss of 380 jobs in May. The company blamed a tough market in regional aircraft. A spokesman yesterday said that demand for turbo prop aircraft has fallen and, where it existed, the market was highly competitive.

The company has since been negotiating with workers and

BRITISH BIOTECH, which hopes to launch its first drug next year, has more than doubled the level of pension contributions that it pays to its executive directors.

It will in future pay 19 per cent of salary into its pension scheme, up from a previous maximum of 9 per cent.

The change means Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive and highest paid director, will this year receive pension contributions of £57,000 for more if his salary rises from £300,000, up from £27,000 last year. The

rest of the Oxford company's 410 employees will not receive improved pensions.

A spokeswoman said that, having taken external advice, it was "very clear" that previous pension contributions were well below the level typically paid by other FTSE 250 and pharmaceutical companies.

Dr McCullagh was paid a £108,000 performance bonus last year, giving him a total pay package of £419,000, 99 per cent up from £263,000 in the previous year. He also owns British Biotech shares worth £13.8 million and options worth

about £5 million. British Biotech's annual report shows that James Noble received £204,000 compensation for loss of office after resigning as finance director in February.

Mr Noble, who played a key role in establishing British Biotech's standing in the City, had to give up share options worth about £2 million on his departure. He made a profit of about £2.3 million exercising other options. Two other departing directors, Ronald Irwin and John Gordon, made £2.4 million and £2.9 million respectively from their options.

VOLKSWAGEN, the German carmaker, lifted net profits to DM488 million (€166.2 million) from DM282 million in the six months to June 30. At the pre-tax level profits were DM1.39 billion (DM891 million). Vehicle deliveries rose to 2.19 million (1.99 million), in spite of a fall in the German domestic market to 508,704 (516,413). Group turnover improved to DM56.5 billion (DM50.5 billion). Volkswagen, Europe's largest auto manufacturer, produces vehicles under the Volkswagen, Skoda, Seat and Audi brand names.

ICI's shareholders yesterday approved the group's sale of three of its industrial chemicals businesses to DuPont of the US for \$3 billion (£1.9 billion). The sale of the polyester polymer, polyester film and titanium dioxide businesses is part of an extensive overhaul that will move ICI away from commodity chemicals and concentrate its activities on more profitable speciality operations. Separately, ICI has agreed to buy a 9.1 per cent stake in Asian Paints (India) from Kotak Mohindra Capital Company for nearly 1.3 billion rupees (£23 million).

MICROVITEC, the computer software and networking group, went into the red in the six months to June 30, incurring pre-tax losses of £24.00 million, compared with profits of £2.6 million. Turnover fell 38 per cent, from £33.8 million to £20.9 million, and earnings per share were cut from 1.4p to 0.1p. No dividend will be paid (0.425p). **James Bailey**, chairman, blamed the poor performance on the company's display division, which saw a 75 per cent fall in export sales. He added that the business had been hit by the strength of sterling.

Tempus, page 26

TORDAY & CARLISLE, the diesel engine, marine and automotive components company, is again, passing the interim dividend in spite of achieving a modest increase in pre-tax profits to £615,000 (£574,000) in the six months to June 30. Earnings were unchanged at 2.5p a share. Turnover eased slightly to £9.26 million (£10.67 million). The company's car die business was affected by delays in big contracts, while European marine and industrial markets suffered from the uncertainties surrounding continental economies.

SHERWOOD INTERNATIONAL, the supplier of information technology to the insurance industry, said its efforts to expand continue to be hampered by the shortage of experienced IT staff. The company said it was putting "maximum effort into recruiting and retaining high calibre personnel". Sherwood reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £1.05 million from £705,000 for the six months to June 30. Earnings rose to 7.9p a share from 5.6p. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.80 (1.50).

	Bank Bills	Bank Savings
Australia \$	21.65	2.19
Argentina \$	21.29	2.31
Belgium \$	98.68	98.68
Cyprus Cyp£	2.966	2.177
Czech Republic	0.086	0.834
Denmark Dkr	11.77	10.83
Finland Mk\$	9.34	9.88
France Ffr	95.35	95.35
Germany DM	3.10	2.85
Greece Dr	487	487
Hong Kong \$	122.17	122.17
Iceland	127	127
Italy Lit	1.015	1.015
Japan Yen	109.89	109.89
South Korea \$	0.673	0.61
Netherlands Gld	3.493	3.20
New Zealand \$	2.458	2.458
Norway Mkr	12.82	12.82
Portugal Esc	310.03	389.98
Spain Ptas	7.937	7.937
Spain Ptas	259.29	240.56
Sweden Sfr	12.647	12.647
Switzerland Sfr	2.38	2.38
Turkey Lira	274.032	254.159
USA \$	1.00	1.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates may apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Industrial Tribunal proceedings have been commenced by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry against MARK DEVENE late of Flat 1, 39 Linden Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, London W2 4HQ for a prohibited order under Section 2A(1) of the Employment Protection of Interests Act 1975. Mr Devene should apply to the Industrial Tribunals London North, 19-29 Westgate Place, London WC1H 0LL quising Case Number: 2202/97 for full details. If by 31 October 1997 it has not done so, the tribunal may hear the case without further notice.

Mrs K Westley
Regional Secretary

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

By RACHEL HOLMES

JOSEPH YAM, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority chief executive, vowed to peg the Hong Kong to the American dollar to "burn" currency speculators with high interest rates. The threat was delivered while Hong Kong markets were closed, but while speculators continued to attack other Far East currencies.

The Hong Kong dollar is the last Far East currency to maintain a link with the American dollar after the Indonesian rupiah was allowed to float on Friday.

Mr Yam said he was ready to punish speculators with crippling interest rates. "Those banks involved in the speculation will suffer by paying a high interest rate to get the Hong Kong dollar funding to settle the deals. We may charge them 12 per cent or even 60 per cent."

He promised: "The speculators will find that the funding cost for them to buy the Hong Kong dollar to settle their deals is far more



Hong Kong is trying to

than they earn from the exchange rate."

Meanwhile currency and equity markets tumbled across South-East Asia again yesterday. In spite of govern-

Avoid Far East turmoil

new depths yesterday, taking equities with them.

The rupiah came close to breaching the 3,000 to the dollar barrier before closing at 2,970.80. On the Jakarta Stock Exchange, composite index shares fell 8 per cent at one point, before staging a partial recovery to close down 2.9 per cent at 599.64.

The Philippine peso slid to new lows, ending at 30.14 to the dollar, compared with 25.80 at Friday close. The Thai baht and Malaysian ringgit experienced similar declines, which — along with Friday's sell-off on Wall Street — sent shares sliding downwards.

Ravi Buchanan, a global currency economist at Morgan Stanley, argues that Hong Kong has a "better chance of outlasting this episode" than other Far East economies. Not only do the combined reserves of the Chinese and Hong Kong monetary authorities amount to more than \$180 billion (\$12 billion), the Hong Kong dollar has thus far remained on the strong side of its unofficial trivalue band.

The miracle Budge couldn't work



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Richard Budge is a man of foresight and imagination. In 1994, he had the imagination to see the potential for his little firm putting in a bid for what was left of British Coal and turning itself, overnight, into Europe's largest independently owned coal mining company. In July last year, he had the foresight to sell a chunk of his shares, bringing him a useful £1.2 million profit.

Some other shareholders may today be wishing that they had done the same as Mr Budge, for the price he achieved for his shares was 553p against the 312½p where they now languish.

The generous purchaser of his RJB stock was none other than RJB itself, an early enthusiast for the share buy-backs which are now so fashionable. With profits rising and RJB apparently demonstrating that there was indeed money to be made from coal mining, the buy-back was a gesture of confidence.

But by then the company knew that Ashfordby was a problem pit. What it refers to as "unique" geological problems had had the effect of bringing the roof tumbling in. Unless new techniques could be found, the undeniably rich seams of Ashfordby would be impossible to mine.

The miners of Ashfordby are insistent that there are ways of extracting the coal, but at a price. That price does not make commercial sense for RJB any more than it did to British Coal.

For a time, Mr Budge gave a convincing performance of privatisation being able to do for mining what it had done for British Telecom. The £815 million he had paid the Government for the collection of collieries began to look like a steal, and as profits soared, the company paid down its debt way ahead of schedule.

But while investors enthused over the Budge miracle and the share price soared, the fundamentals of the industry had not changed.

The £89 million profit that RJB made last year owed much to the pickings from mines that are coming to their ends. Ashfordby was once viewed as the mine of the future that would ensure the country's coal supply for future decades.

But the company has already written off the £78 million costs of Ashfordby and can now argue that closure is the only commercially sensible option. This view may or may not be coloured by the state of the RJB balance sheet, which does not look ready to pump fortunes into the pit.

That level of investment might, in the long term, have produced profits for RJB and its shareholders, although, without a guarantee from Government that it

would forcibly encourage power stations to buy British coal, the economics look risky.

Critics of the closure should bear in mind that governments can take long-term strategic views on the use of natural resources, but companies are in business to make profits.

If the sin of Mr Budge and RJB was to make a quick turn on under-priced national assets, not to save miners' jobs, we should not be surprised.

WH Smith chief must divide to rule

Considering the difficulty of the task, it is encouraging to see so many internal candidates vying for the top job at WH Smith. Bill Cockburn had barely ventured inside the business before deciding that it was an altogether more attractive proposition.

But so keen for advancement

are the chaps at WH Smith that it seems they may even be putting together manifestos and, in passing, mentioning them to the odd institutional investor who might be passing.

This puts a new twist on corporate governance and we should almost certainly reconvene Sir Ronald Hampel and his gang to pronounce on the etiquette of such electioneering.

The new chief executive of WH Smith will certainly be in position before they can produce their report but there are growing suggestions that he may set about tearing the business apart as soon as he has taken his seat. Analysts and venture capitalists have all done their sums on a break-up of WH Smith and they can find plenty of value to justify it.

They have, of course, done similar exercises on just about every company and precious little activity has emerged as a result. Sears was a favourite

break-up candidate for years but nothing happened and eventually the company was prevailed upon to initiate the deed itself. Now, Dalgety is in the frame as the favourite target for bored financiers.

The financial arguments for break-ups are rarely clear cut. In the case of WH Smith, however, there is a strong logical reason for why a break-up should be considered. It is that WH Smith is currently competing against itself. The relative success of its Waterstones bookshops and Virgin Our Price music stores is bought at the expense of the main WH Smith chain. This process of cannibalisation has been going on for years, and if it continues, the results could be exceedingly painful.

A break-up would allow the main chain to rediscover a raison d'être. Virgin would almost certainly be happy to regain control of its music business and Waterstones would attract poten-

tial purchasers. Whether that would produce the sort of break-up margin that analysts currently divine is doubtful: mutterings of around £5 seem highly optimistic.

But the logic of dividing this business into its component parts is clear. If that features in one of the manifestos, it should be a winner.

Manna from the high street

Continental scourging themselves in vain in their misguided drive to qualify for the euro will surely cast an envious and reflective glance at Britain's improving fiscal balance. The lesson, as French, German and Italian finance officials know but dare not admit, is that growth is good for the public finances.

Recovery has taken a long time to feed through into the UK's fiscal balance, as evidenced by years of over-optimistic forecasts of falling public sector borrowing requirements. Now, things may be coming good at last.

Underlying growth of VAT receipts may have been disguised by changes in the system of

payment but there is no hiding a 12 per cent year-on-year gain in income tax receipts. The Office of National Statistics feared that the change to self-assessment might cause payments to lag. Either fear is making taxpayers queue up early or the underlying growth in incomes, enhanced by fiscal drag, is bigger than some other official figures suggest.

If revenue remains buoyant into winter, it will be manna from heaven for the Government. At the moment, ministers are sticking doggedly to their spending budgets, but some will soon become incompatible with election pledges, especially as higher short-term inflation has shrunk their real value.

At this stage of recovery, the Government should be borrowing nothing, but the markets should not assume that buoyant revenue will translate into smaller gilt-edged issues this year.

Mogadon Monday

AFTER those fearful Fridays, thank goodness for Mogadon Mondays in the markets. Both owe much to thin August trading.

Fund managers who could take a lead are away and market-makers can manipulate shares back on course. Meanwhile, prices are jerky, trending down, as they need to on Wall Street. If insiders do their stuff, most of the correction might even be achieved by the time the big players return in two weeks' time.

Cautious Argos reduces prices

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ARGOS, the catalogue retailer, is cutting many of its prices in a bid to gain market share ahead of the crucial Christmas trading period.

In its autumn/winter catalogue, 98 per cent of its repeated lines are at the same price or cheaper than in the previous catalogue and the goods' prices come out an overall 3.5 per cent lower. The cuts will knock 0.5 per cent off the gross margin.

The company, which had a disappointing Christmas last year and was forced to issue a profit warning in January, also plans to take on more staff ahead of the seasonal rush this time round.

Some analysts were surprised at the aggressiveness of Argos's pricing. "It shows they are under pressure. They have

increased their cost base and need the volume," Sean Eddie at NatWest Markets said. Robert Miller at Dresdner Kleinwort Benson said: "They are being even more aggressive than usual on prices. They clearly don't want to be gazumped by Woolworths or anyone else."

The company yesterday reported that underlying sales in the first half had grown 5.3 per cent to £627 million. Like-for-like sales growth has increased to 8 per cent in the first eight weeks of the second half. In the 24 weeks to June 14 pre-tax profit was down 11.6 per cent to £28.1 million. The company blamed the fall on the cost of paying a special dividend in May last year, and on increased catalogue and advertising costs.

In a cautious accompanying statement, the company said that "current buoyancy in consumer confidence and overall retail sales may not be sustainable". It nonetheless said that it expects a stronger second-half performance than last year and for profits in the year as a whole to be above last year's.

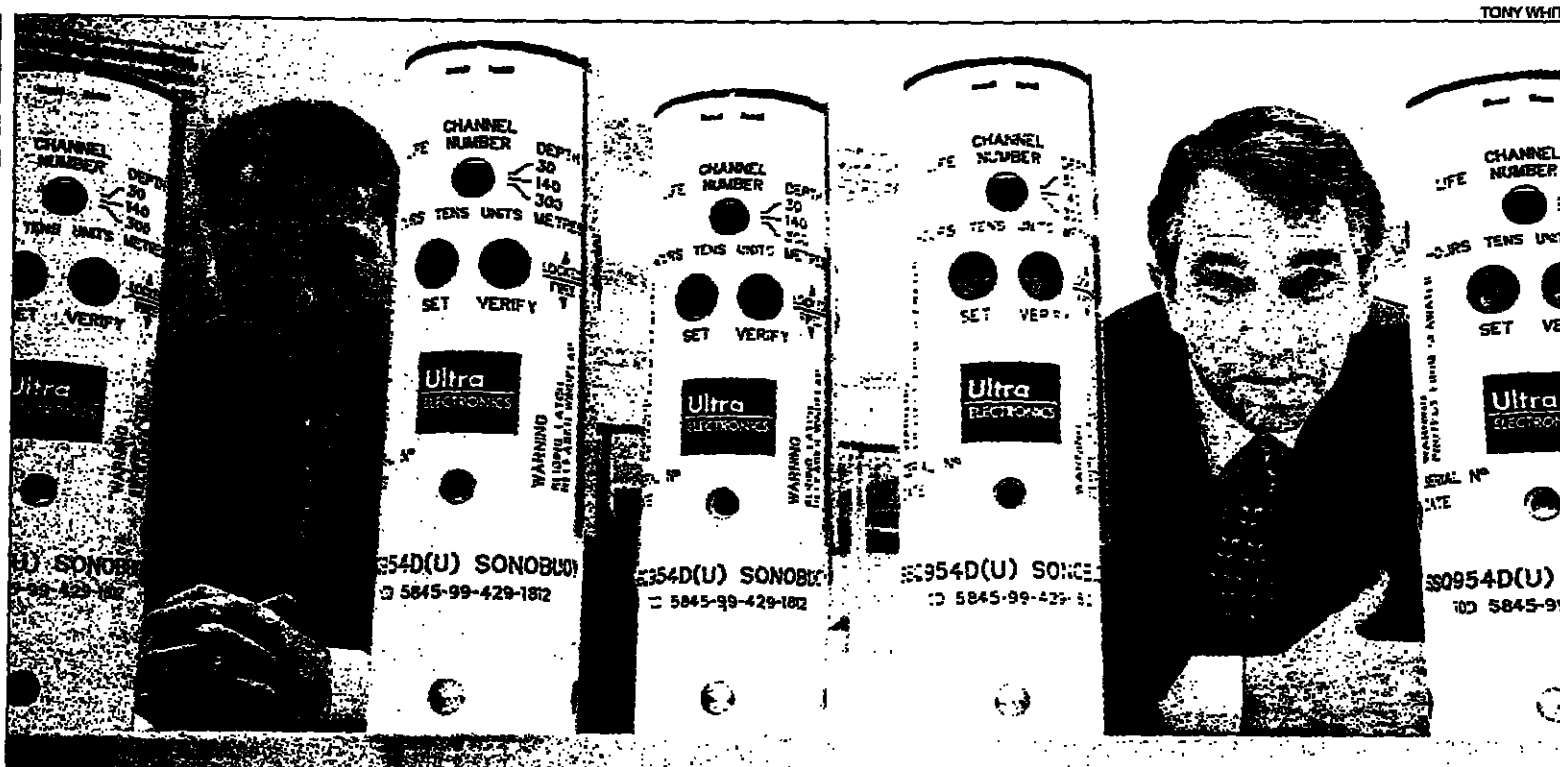
Mike Smith, chief executive, played down plans for an acquisition. He said that Argos could spend up to £1 billion, but is in no hurry and is only interested in a non-food, non-clothing retail business in the UK.

An expansion into Holland is set to cost up to £5 million this year and up to £8 million next year. The first five stores are due to open next February. Break-even is not expected until 2001. A decision on whether to take Argos into other countries in Western and Central Europe will be taken in 1999, Mr Smith said.

Back in Britain, no decision has yet been taken on whether to roll out Argos's discount First Stop stores, which the company has been testing for the past two years.

Argos is paying an interim dividend of 6.1p, up from 5.3p, on November 17. Its shares closed down 1½p at 62½p.

Times, page 26



Ian Yeoman, finance director of Ultra Electronics, left, and Julian Bloch expect to double sales in the commercial aerospace markets

Ultra sees a 26% increase in orders

By CHRIS AVRES

ULTRA ELECTRONICS, the aerospace and defence technology group that floated in September last year, boosted orders 26 per cent from £174 million to £220 million in the six months to June 30.

It said that its deliveries over the next two years, lifted by the purchase of EMS and Highline, the US electronics groups, would produce 12 to 15 per cent growth in earnings and dividends. Julian Bloch, chief executive, said: "We've had pretty chunky growth this year, with a healthy order book and continued progress in both divisions."

Ultra's long-term deals include a £100 million contract to produce joystick controls and missile coolers for the Eurofighter 2000 and a £33 million contract to supply submarine-detection equipment for Nimrod.

Although defence budgets have stabilised and orders are strong, Ultra says it expects to double sales over the next three to four years in the commercial aerospace markets.

The company reported a 16.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, from £7.4 million to £8.7 million, on turnover of £715 million, up 23.7 per cent from £578 million.

Earnings per share were up 32.9 per cent from 7.3p to 9.7p. A dividend of 2.4p (nil) will be paid on October 1.

Merrydown sheds another director

By DOMINIC WALSH

MERRYDOWN, the embattled cidermaker, has parted company with Stephen Burke, the finance director, as part of a £1.5 million cost-cutting programme promised in July. His resignation follows the recent departure of Alan Rutherford, sales and marketing director.

Richard Purdy, chairman, told the annual meeting yesterday that Mr Burke, who has been with Merrydown for three-and-a-half years, was resigning as "part of a planned career development move". After the meeting, a spokesman declined to be drawn on the amount of Mr Burke's compensation. He was on a two-year contract.

His deputy, Michael Dinn, who joined in 1995 from Green Giant, part of Grand Metropolitan's food empire, replaces him. The post of financial controller is scrapped.

Some analysts had expected Mr Purdy to step down in the wake of the collapse of sales of Two Dogs, the alcoholic lemonade manufactured by Merrydown. Although he is staying

for now, insiders believe it is only a matter of time before either Mr Purdy or Paul Millman, managing director, step down. One said: "You've effectively got a managing director and a chairman and chief executive, both full-time, in what is a relatively small company. Something's got to give, though not just yet."

Hewlett-Packard disappoints

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CALIFORNIA

HEWLETT-PACKARD, America's second-largest computer manufacturer after IBM, achieved a 45 per cent rise in third-quarter profits but still fell short of stock market expectations.

The company earned \$617 million (£383 million) in the three months to July 31, up from \$425 million in the third quarter of the previous year. But comparable figures for last year were affected by a \$135 million charge against the disposal of the disk-drive business. The increase in underlying profits was just 11 per cent. Revenue rose 15 per cent to \$10.5 billion from \$9.1 billion.

Lewis E. Platt, chairman, said the company enjoyed healthy gains in orders and revenues from its personal computers, printers and chip-

testing equipment. But the company spent more to stimulate demand, he said.

Hewlett-Packard, based in Palo Alto, California, makes computers ranging from PCs to powerful business machines for many users. It is also a leading maker of test and measurement equipment.

During the quarter HP enjoyed a 19 per cent gain in orders, led by 25 per cent growth in America. The company was one of several PC manufacturers to cut prices to boost sales. HP's cost of sales also rose 14 per cent during the May-July quarter, eating into its profits.

For the first nine months of the year the company's profits have risen 19 per cent to \$2.31 billion from \$1.94 billion. Revenue is up 10 per cent to \$31.1 billion from \$28.3 billion.

DLJ poised for London Global deal

By ROBERT MILLER

DONALDSON Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), one of Wall Street's most successful investment banks, is believed to be on the verge of a completing a near £100 million deal to buy London Global Securities.

The acquisitive DLJ, founded in 1959 and named after its three Harvard Business School founders, already owns Phoenix Securities, the London mergers and acquisitions boutique it bought for an estimated £50 million in January.

The proposed purchase of London Global, one of the largest independent securities-lending brokerage firms, would further enhance DLJ's standing in London. In the US the investment bank is noted for its strength in certain key sectors and markets such as US high-yield stocks, media and corporate finance.

A spokesman for London Global Securities, which was founded seven years ago by Paloma Partners, a private US investment company, said last night: "At this time we really haven't anything to say. Please call back in a couple of days."

Pillar buys CW Harris Properties

PILLAR Properties, the property investment and development company, has acquired CW Harris Properties, controlled by Lord Harris of Peckham, the founder and chairman of Carpetright (Eric Reguly writes).

Of the £15.6 million price, £12.4 million is cash, with the rest in new Pillar shares at 23p. Harris Properties has net assets of £25.9 million, including loans of £11.7 million.

The portfolio includes five retail warehouses that generate rents of £3.5 million a year. Tenants include Carpetright, Homebase, Carrys and Halfords.

Humphrey Price, Pillar's finance director, said the deal was attractive because the Government is clamping down on the construction of new retail warehouses. The acquisition, he said, makes Pillar the second-largest owner of retail warehouses.

Swiss parent to decide on Bally's fate

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE fate of Bally, one of the best-known quality shoe brands on the high street, was left hanging in the balance yesterday after its management presented plans for a revamp to the Swiss parent company.

Ernst Thomke, the chief executive of Bally, has already publicly fallen out with its owner, Oerlikon-Buehler Holding, the secretive Swiss weapons-to-fashion conglomerate, over whether Bally should have its own listing, and the size of a much-needed cash injection.

Herr Thomke said in a Swiss newspaper interview this month that he would not rule out leaving the company if the row was not settled.

The dispute followed a statement by Hans Widmer, chairman of Oerlikon, that conditions for floating Bally as a separate company were not right. He has also said that the restructuring of Bally, which Herr Thomke was brought in to do, was going more slowly than expected.

Herr Thomke has also been criticised by Horstene Ande-Buerhle, a Buerhle family shareholder and member of the Oerlikon board, who said: "He should quit talking. What is needed now is hard work."

A spokeswoman for Oerlikon said yesterday that, after the presentation, a decision on what to do about Bally will be taken in the next few weeks.

Herr Thomke, who is highly rated as a company director in Switzerland, has admitted that he underestimated the cost of restructuring Bally. The cost was initially put at about £42 million, but analysts estimate it could rise to as much as £60 million.

The British Bally retail operation is run by a subsidiary of the Swiss company, Bally UK Sales. Many of the shoes found in the shops, which number more than 40, come from Switzerland, with others made in Italy, Spain and the UK. Oerlikon's shares, listed in Switzerland, have suffered since the end of June because of speculation about the row between Bally and the main board.



Bally's future is undecided



Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

New business rates effective from 18 August 1997

	Gross %	Gross CAR %
MoneyMaster		
Up to £5,000	3.46	3.50
£5,000+	3.76	3.80
£25,000+	4.05	4.10
£100,000+	4.10	4.15
£250,000+	4.34	4.40
Premium Business Account		
£5,000+	4.80	4.90
£25,000+	5.28	5.40
£100,000+	5.51	5.65
£250,000+	5.70	5.85
Clients Premium Deposit Account		
£25,000+	4.70	4.75
£100,000+	5.14	5.20
Education Account		
Up to £25,000	4.61	4.70
£25,000+	5.09	5.21
Treasurer Account		
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
£2,000+	2.23	2.25
£10,000+	4.17	4.25

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compound Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments. All rates quoted are per annum. With effect from the 7th August 1997 Midland Bank's Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% to 7.00% p.a.

Midland Bank plc, 27-32, Poultry, London EC2P 2BX.
Member HSBC Group

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

Fears of slide recede as market recovers its nerve

NO HOLIDAYS were cancelled, no fund managers tossed themselves out of tall buildings, and most dealers sat on their money for the day. Despite expectations of blood on the dealing room floor, the market recovered its nerve after last Friday's sudden dive. There was a nervous start with an early morning fall of 80 points that took the FTSE 100 back below 4,800, but shares clawed back some of their lost ground, helped by support from firmer futures and gilts.

Following the erratic progress of the Dow Jones industrial average, the FTSE drifted back towards the end of the day to end 30.8 points down at 4,835, though volumes were thin with little more than 500 million shares traded.

With a large number of companies going ex-dividend yesterday it was, said dealers, a strong result although the uncertainty was far from over.

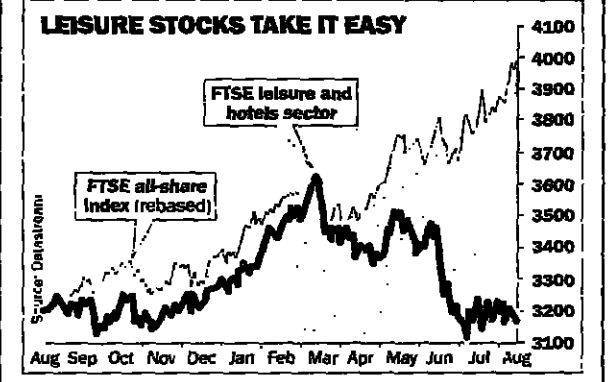
BTR, the diversified industrial group, confidently bucked the trend throughout the day, putting on 6.1p to 221.2p, and leading the list of FTSE 100 top performing shares. Talk of releasing value through a break-up gave the shares a further lift yesterday after overseas buyers, particularly from America, boosted the shares last week.

Some analysts shied away from the term "break-up", preferring instead to talk of BTR looking to substantial disposals to move the business towards a more focused engineering stock.

BT was the also the focus of attention in the thin market. It was the most heavily traded amongst FTSE 100 stocks, with more than 42 million shares traded. Interest was sparked by SGST, the broker, reiterating its buy recommendation. BT shares ended unchanged at 311.4p, while Cable & Wireless was also sought after, ending at 558.2p, up 1.1p. Orange rose 1.1p to 212.2p.

Banks again saw red, with HSBC Holdings marked down a further 70.1p to £20.97 to end as the worst performing FTSE 100 stock. NatWest, Lloyds TSB and the Halifax were also in retreat and among the most traded stocks.

In the uncertain stock market waters, utilities proved an attractive haven. Among the best performers were National Power, surging 11p to



LEISURE STOCKS TAKE IT EASY

FTSE leisure and hotels sector index (rebased)

FTSE all-share index (rebased)

FIRST LEISURE provided a small stir of excitement in a sector that has largely missed out on recent rises. Speculation that Bass had the disco to bingo group headed by Michael Grade in its sights sent First Leisure shares 11.5p higher to 322.5p. The group which owns Blackpool Tower has looked vulnerable because of its poor share price performance.

The leisure and hotel sector has lagged behind the market, just when it would seem that increased consumer confidence and windfall gains should be

early slide to end 11.5p lower at 621.5p, after a mixed response to interim results. Some analysts were trimming back full-year forecasts.

Elsewhere in the retailing sector, Sear's put on 2.1p to 62p, after it was confirmed that the large chunk of shares traded on Friday, had been acquired by PDM, the fund manager. The acquisition of the 60 million shares lifts PDM's stake to 20.5 per cent.

Storehouse was also in demand, putting on 7p to 228.1p while W H Smith, the focus of break-up speculation over the weekend, added 2p to 58.1p. Laura Ashley, the fashion and furnishings group, faded 4.1p to 56.1p, ahead of this week's trading statement which is likely to warn of first-half losses.

News of the closure of the Asfordby mine in Leicestershire sent shares in owner RJB Mining 10p lower to one point. The shares closed at a new low point for the year of 312.1p, down 5p.

Oil shares slid back, with BP down 13p to 837.1p while Barmah Castrol fell back 12.1p to £10.62, after announcing the £23 million acquisition of a chemicals business and the £15 million disposal of Columbia Cement.

Merrydown, the cider group, ended up 1.1p at 60.1p after news of the resignation of Stephen Burke, finance director.

Bid speculation sent shares in Boosey & Hawkes, the musical instruments and publishing group, 27.1p higher to 847.1p.

Pennia Holdings put on 12.1p to 118.1p after recent share purchases by directors. GILT-EDGED: Better than expected figures on public sector debt repayment gave the gilts market a lift, increasing demand for issued gilt stock. A stronger opening on US markets further boosted confidence. The September series of the long gilt put £14.22 to £115.22 with the number of contracts completed 43,000.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unchanged at £102.42 while long moved ahead, with Treasury 3 per cent 2015 up 0.02 to £103.32.

NEW YORK: Blue chips turned lower in late morning trade as bonds and futures shed some of their earlier gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 1.86 points to 7,962.80 by midday.

Closing Prices Page 29

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7962.80 (-1.86)
S&P Composite	902.40 (-4.41)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	19041.10 (-384.93)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	917.49 (-23.09)
Sydney:	
AD	2618.5 (-47.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4078.60 (-74.20)
Singapore:	
Strait	1918.85 (-34.55)
Brussels:	
General	13436.53 (-283.42)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2870.13 (-51.71)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1173.20 (-14.30)
London:	
FT 30	3124.8 (-18.9)
FTSE 100	4835.0 (-30.8)
FTSE 250	2621.0 (-34.9)
FTSE 350	2240.6 (-15.3)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2576.75 (-42.22)
FTSE All-share	2287.37 (-33.03)
FTSE Non Financials	2304.62 (-42.08)
FTSE Fixed Interest	126.02 (-0.48)
FTSE Govt Sec	96.98 (-0.25)
Birmingham:	
SEAC Volume	4901
US:	
DAX Volume	1,610,000 (+0.01)
German Mark	2,939.00 (+0.07)
Exchange Index	102.3 (-0.32)
Exchange of England official close (p.m.)	
ECU	1.4833
LSDR	175.15 Jul 0.3% Jan 1997-1.1800
1975 Jul 0.3% Jan 1997-1.1800	
1975 Jul 0.3% Jan 1997-1.1800	

RECENT ISSUES

Antofagasta Uts	407.5	- 24
Blakes Clothing	234	
Bristol & West Pl	108.5	+ 4
Cartmel Ltd	131	- 24
EMI B	115	
Fairfield Ens	117.5	
Fairplace Consulting	34	
GR Holdings	55	
Galen Holdings	195	
Helicon Publs	99	
Ionica Group	37	- 25
Kingsfisher Leisure	175.5	
LEPCO	78.5	
Landround	94.5	
Metrolife	206.5	
Reabourne Merit	108	
SBS Group	109.5	+ 1
Severn Trent B	34.5	
Senior Warrants	50	
Thorn B	20.5	
Viglen Technology	65	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Golden Land n/p (21)	21
Logica n/p (605)	180.5 - 31

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Holprie Gp	220p (+16.5p)
Scotia	280p (+10p)
Photobank	640p (+17.5p)
Sales	520p (+11.5p)
Purity	482p (+8p)
Dorcas Gp	600p (+8p)
Granada	799p (+4.5p)
FALLS:	
HK Land	190p (-12p)
MAID	199p (-9p)
Lavendon	241p (-19p)
Hozelock	226p (-11.5p)
Servisat	325p (-11.5p)
Tishbee Bath	354p (-12p)
Shield Diag	502p (-15p)
Henlys	434p (-12.5p)
David Brown	203p (-12p)
Kenwood App	103p (-14p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Still treading warily

THE lugubrious bosses of Argos seemed happier delivering the disappointing news on first-half trading yesterday than in the past when they have reported a really outstanding set of figures. Perverse, but understandable given their experiences over the last year.

A year ago, Argos said it had a record first half, with like-for-like sales growth of over 11 per cent. The result was a wave of forecast upgrades and a jump in the share price. Words of caution on a potentially difficult Christmas and on higher costs were ignored.

As shareholders will be aware, the result was a horrible mess. A profit warning in January following a terrible second half led the shares to plunge 15 per cent in one day.

This time, the company was very careful to point to upcoming one-off costs. Its aggressive pricing should guarantee better sales

around Christmas, particularly as there is less doubt about festive trading this year: some money from windfalls is certainly being saved for generous Christmas presents.

While few doubts remain about this year's outcome, the longer term prospects at Argos are less clear. It seems extremely unwilling to spend any of its cash on a meaningful acquisition and there is no knowing how it will do in Holland. It is also being extremely cautious about rolling out its discount store, First Stop.

Argos appears to have ensured that it will not suffer a repeat of the roller-coaster ride of the last 12 months. But since it is having to buy market share through sacrificing margin, it looks equally unlikely that its shares will rate much more than their current 5 per cent premium to the sector. Hold.

Taylor Nelson

INVESTORS in Taylor Nelson could be forgiven for thinking that they have not been invited to the party going on in the market research business.

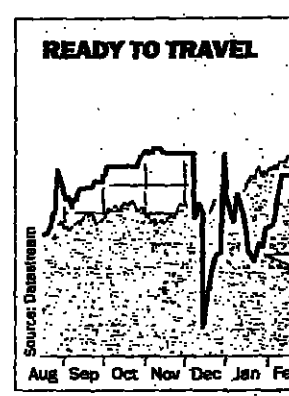
In a sector growing at 10 per cent in the UK alone, Taylor Nelson shares are off 6 per cent in a year. Its profits have jumped, but the shares are still lagging and show few signs of life.

So what has gone wrong? The answer seems to be diversification. It strayed from using researchers with clipboards and ball points into door-to-door distribution. This failed and it lost £1.5 million.

This, it now says, was an irksome diversion from what is a solid underlying business. Indeed, earnings have come through stronger than expected and profits are still

on course to double by the year end.

But much of this is already in the price, with the shares trading on 16.8 times this year's earnings - not cheap for a small company. They still command a ready welcome. Taylor Nelson is the only quoted firm among the largest of the UK's market research firms.



Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug

Severfield

IT IS a puzzle. Why on earth does Severfield-Reeve whose specialist steel business is storming the market, put up with Manabio, a failing business that makes hygiene equipment for abattoirs?

While Manabio continues to be completely ignored by the food industry, it is busy making an unpleasant little loss for Severfield, which this half amounted to £902,000.

It must surely be only a matter of time before the directors of Severfield tire of such a bizarre addition to their main business.

Investors irritated by Manabio's continued presence can at least console themselves with the mouth-watering performance of Rowen, a much more obvious fit with the group's steel structure business.

Rowen was bought at the same time as Manabio last year for only £800,000, a price which is probably earned back in profits within

a month. Its order book is at record levels and profits will go through the ceiling if it gets the go-ahead to start work on Heathrow terminal five.

It is reassuring to see Severfield taking steps to prepare for a possible slump in the construction market by increasing exports. Over the past two years, Severfield's low production costs have enabled it to increase exports from 1 per cent to 27 per cent of sales, despite the strong pound. Investors can put up with Manabio. Buy.

Microvitec

SINCE the middle of last year, Microvitec has piled misery upon misery. Four profit warnings have slashed the shares from 71.5p to 15.5p, and exposed the extent of the company's reliance on its biggest customers and North American marketing partner.

First-half sales of computer display monitors virtually

halved to £11.4 million, a level last seen seven years ago and the main reason for the interim operating loss of £2.9 million. The strong pound was partly to blame, but the loss of sales to Bloomberg, the financial news group, underlines a more fundamental weakness.

Microvitec's move away from software and into networking remains wholly convincing. SilCom in Canada has staged a modest recovery after last year's problems, but the division's sales and profits are both sharply lower. It is hardly encouraging to learn that the creation of a network systems integrator has led to the loss of both management and sales staff.

Microvitec has complained that it has been judged overvalued and suggests it is now turning the corner. But it faces a long struggle to establish any credibility after such a calamitous series of mishaps.

EDITED BY PAUL DURMAN

COMMODITIES

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Carl Mortished looks into the deep-rooted nagging anxiety about Rentokil Initial

Concern in City over company at crossroads

When Sir Clive Thompson delivers Rentokil Initial's half-year financial results tomorrow, his customary confident swagger may not be so obvious.

Although Britain's largest and, arguably, most successful service company is set to again report earnings growth ahead of his self-imposed target of 20 per cent, Rentokil's star has been tarnished. Its stock market rating has slipped and it is perceived to be at a crossroads.

Bumprusty Sir Clive has presided over an astonishing period of growth. Over the past ten years earnings per share have grown an average 24 per cent a year and in April 1996 he led the firm in its biggest adventure, acquiring BET, a rival service group, in a contested £2 billion takeover.

City analysts expect the merged Rentokil Initial to report interim profits of up to £200 million courtesy of BET, enough to satisfy fund managers who backed the bid for BET and, more important, to avoid embarrassment for Sir Clive.

The nagging anxiety about Rentokil is more deep-rooted. Rentokil Initial has traditionally been a growth stock, but its share rating has failed to recover the ground lost earlier this year when the 1996 profits revealed a sharp slowdown at the heart of the company.

Rentokil retains a loyal band of admirers who believe Sir Clive has found a formula capable of delivering spectacular long-term growth, and there is some evidence to support their enthusiasm. From a company that discovered a new rat poison in 1904, Rentokil has made about 90

acquisitions over the past decade — small operations that add market share to its cleaning, vermin control and pest control and tropical plant rental businesses. Low-margin new businesses are given the Rentokil treatment of staff training, discipline and customer service. The result is higher prices and a better return on sales and earnings per share growth. The original business delivers shareholders a spectacular 33p in profit for every pound paid by the customer.

The City harbours doubts. At the time of the bid for BET, analysts fretted that growth in core Rentokil operations was slowing and critics accused Sir Clive of desperation in launching a bid for a group with plant hire and distribution interests. But the company's fans say Rentokil is not investing in slower industries but buying in growth markets.

Outsourcing basic services is the fashion among companies seeking to focus their investment on core expertise. As firms contract and shed ancillary activities, Rentokil is available to clean offices, change the towels, patrol the premises and remove vermin. Unfortunately, the 1996 profits were not flattering and Rentokil Initial has a tendency to be spare with specific information about



Thompson: long-term growth

its service businesses. The figures tomorrow will not differentiate between the "old Rentokil" operations and the BET businesses.

Analysts will continue to fret if they cannot pinpoint which Rentokil businesses are growing and which marking time. The picture is also complicated by hefty provisions taken against the BET assets. In addition to a reorganisation charge of £16 million, Rentokil Initial's accounts show a fair value adjustment of £260

million against the £310 million book value of BET on acquisition.

Andrew Ripper, analyst at Merrill Lynch, said: "Over the next two years, they will derive more growth from the BET businesses than from Rentokil." Rentokil's 1996 results showed only 9 per cent growth in profits from the "old" businesses — pest control showed almost nil growth and is expected to remain weak this year, textile rental was doing badly on the Continent and the managed security business is plagued by low margins and competition.

All that will not cause Sir Clive to lose too much sleep because BET brings with it potential for uplift. Margins in the acquired businesses average 8.7 per cent, compared with 22 per cent at Rentokil. Even if the boring initial cleaning operations fail to generate much organic sales growth, efficiency gains and the shedding of low-priced contracts should enable Rentokil to squeeze more profits from new businesses.

But that brings one back to the main conundrum about this slick but decidedly low-tech company. Rentokil operates in businesses that have few barriers to entry. It has acquired some capital intensive businesses with BET, such as plant hire, an area of greater

investment risk in which Rentokil's management skills are as yet untested. Outsourcing is hardly a new concept, but it is the mainstay of growth at a number of go-go companies, including Capita Group, which provides council clerical services.

Large service groups with powerful brands such as Rentokil wield a degree of clout over their customers at present, but there will come a time when big owners and managers such as PPM, the consortium that has acquired the huge DSS property estate, may be able to dictate terms.

Rentokil's success has been due to its ability to achieve dominance in specific areas such as pest control, where provision of a slick service in a market characterised by price inelasticity allows the operator to achieve exceptional margins. However, reliability is not so easy to prove in other service businesses, such as security. The market for low-tech property-related services is crowded and Rentokil will need to continue to make acquisitions if it is to sustain its target of 20 per cent earnings growth. Mr Ripper said: "I think he will do it this year, but he will find it tough next year. He will have run out of the benefits of merging BET. The share price is saying that the longer-term rate of growth is 16 per cent..."

Sir Clive's mission statement has the proviso that the aim is 20 per cent growth "while not detracting from long-term growth prospects". So Rentokil will not dash for growth this year at the expense of the future. However, what the market wants to see is from where the long-term growth will come.

Britain needs capacity for success

John Grieve Smith says policy to curb inflation may backfire

Concern about the dangers of the economy "overheating" has focused attention on the strength of demand in relation to industrial capacity. Discussion has concentrated, however, on the short-term problem of regulating demand; almost nothing has been said about the longer-term problem of expanding capacity.

Surprisingly little is known about the actual capacity of particular industries or the economy as a whole, or about the effects of differing rates of capacity utilisation on prices. The main sources of information on capacity utilisation are the CBI and British Chambers of Commerce surveys, both of which suggested that capacity utilisation peaked a year or so ago.

In considering how to avoid overheating it is vital to distinguish between two related dangers. One is that the easing of competitive pressures will lead firms to increase prices and profit margins. The other is that a stronger demand for labour will lead to a wage/price spiral. After nearly two decades

of heavy unemployment and a periodically overvalued pound, the economy is in danger of pressing up against capacity limits while there are still significant reserves of labour, albeit there may be shortages of particular skills in particular areas.

There is a pressing need to encourage the expansion of capacity in the widest sense: that it is not simply plant capacity, the dominant factor in industries such as steel or chemicals, but the total managerial and operational strength of the firm.

The danger is that excessively strict policies to curb inflation may have adverse effects on industrial capacity. This, ironically, will make us more susceptible to inflation in the long run in an upturn (as happened in the 1980s) and make it harder to reduce unemployment. Exclusive reliance on monetary policy accentuates this danger, both because high interest rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption, and also because of their effect on the exchange rate. It is not just the present high level of sterling that is so damaging

to industry, but the fear that when the pound does come down, a similar devastating rise might easily recur.

Policies for Equipping Britain for our long-term future (the title of the Budget statement) must include a strategy for accelerating the growth of industrial capacity. The signals to business decision-makers at the moment say "carry on as before". Most managers today served their formative years when weak demand led to the emergence of excess capacity, loss of profits, and bankruptcy or redundancy. The careers of the most successful survivors have frequently been based on caution and cost reduction rather than expansion and risk-taking.

The first essential is for the Government to convince industry that the economy will expand more rapidly in future and expansion will not be suddenly curtailed by the need to take restrictive measures to combat inflation, because unemployment is falling. That is where an agreement with the unions on wages has a part to play. Industry needs to be assured that the exchange rate will be at competitive levels.

There is also a need to create financial structures in which risk-taking becomes more acceptable, by making the penalties for any temporary reduction in profits less severe. This is particularly important for smaller firms where their dependence on bank loans, rather than equity finance, puts many out of business in a recession, which they would otherwise be able to weather. Larger firms have better access to equity finance, but tend to suffer from short-term pressures to maintain dividends that reduce the distinction between debt and risk finance. The Government has emphasised the need to encourage investment, but has so far failed to identify the particular problems of encouraging investment in new capacity, which is essential to strengthen the economy and reduce unemployment.

The author is a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge, and wrote Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed.

High rates are likely to affect investment more than consumption

King Coal's crown is tarnished as rival fuels gain upper hand

The reign of Richard Budge faces growing difficulties, according to Mark Court

Richard Budge took the crown of King Coal at the end of 1994 when his company, RJB Mining, paid £815 million to clinch the majority of English pits sold during coal privatisation. He seized the crown with relish, never missing an opportunity to tell people that he was the saviour of Britain's coal industry.

But the announcement yesterday of another pit closure suggests that his title to the throne is far from secure. The closure of Asfordby in Leicestershire comes just a year after Point of Ayr colliery was shut, and a question mark hangs over several other pits.

Budge's rise to reign over Britain's coalfields is marked by controversy. RJB Mining was an open-cast mining operation when Budge launched his bid for most of the English pits. RJB had been bought for £106 million in 1992 as a buyout from AF Budge, the construction company run by Richard's brother, Tony.

Less than a year later AF Budge crashed with debts of more than £100 million, prompting an investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry.

While Richard Budge was bidding for the English pits, the investigation came to a head. Tony, his wife Janet and Michael Yates, the finance director, were disqualified as directors, but the case against Richard,



Richard Budge's empire is under threat from the growth of gas-fired power stations and cheap coal imports

who was also a director of AF Budge, was dropped.

Richard Budge had already been nominated preferred bidder for most English pits with a bid of about £900 million. He negotiated the figure down to £815 million and paid £700 million in cash with £115 million on deferred terms. The deal was attacked by the National Audit Office, other bidders having been told there would be no deferred payments.

At first Budge's critics said that he had paid too much for the English pits, but he got off to a flying start. As one mining expert recalls: "He had the most amazing piece of luck. He sold about five million tonnes of coal from stock at the full contract price for which he had paid very little because three nuclear power stations broke down within five months of

RJB starting." After returning spectacular profits in the first year, critics argued that Budge had not paid enough for the English pits.

But the big problem that the company faces is the renegotiation of its long-term supply contracts with National Power and PowerGen. Currently these are large, profitable contracts on a take-or-pay basis, but they run out next March when the power generators will seek smaller contracts at lower prices related to the markets.

The generators have told Budge they want coal at 110p a gigajoule, compared with the current 143p a gigajoule. RJB has struggled to bring its costs down since privatisation and is now producing coal at about 117p a gigajoule, which, even without profit, far exceeds the price that the generators are

looking for. As a result RJB faces stiff competition from overseas, where coal can be obtained for 110p a gigajoule.

A coal analyst said: "If the market price applies, which is what the generators want, then RJB's profits will disappear. Although reports are focusing on cheap coal imports, the fact is that British coal is expensive. Foreign companies are simply providing coal at the world market price."

During the past few months Budge has suggested the opening of new pits and even a move into power generation by building a clean coal power station in an effort to build positive sentiment around his company. But analysts believe that RJB will be forced to close further pits in an effort to supply coal at prices that generators will be prepared to

accept. Charles Kernot, analyst at Paribas, the broker, said: "Coal is a declining industry and what RJB needs to do is to recognise it is a declining industry and get as much cash out as possible."

"RJB can pull themselves back to around 10 collieries which they could operate with costs below 115p a gigajoule. There's certainly no way RJB can build a brand new coal mine in this country and make money out of it."

Paribas forecasts full-year pre-tax profits at RJB of £50 million, at the bottom end of expectations, but believes that next month's interim will be strong. Mr Kernot said: "This year will be a very good, very profitable year for RJB. The difficulty is next year when earnings will fall off a cliff." Environmental pressures are

also building up. UK power stations typically burn four parts deep-mined coal to one part open-cast coal. But opposition is growing to the environmental damage done by open-cast mining, and the issue threatens to become as controversial as road building.

The open-cast coal is needed to reduce the effect of the chlorine content of deep-mined coal, which would otherwise result in high levels of hydrochloric acid rotting away the inside of the power station.

Stringent regulations on the emissions from power stations also threaten the burning of coal. One mining source said: "The environmental issue is crucial. The combination of very tough sulphur targets and the Government's determination to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent is going to make life very difficult."

Budge's response to the growing environmental pressure has been to link up with National Power in the hope of developing a clean coal plant in the Midlands. But many believe that coal has lost the race against gas. The rapid growth of gas-fired stations, which are clean, efficient and cheap to build, has all but sealed the fate of the coal industry.

Against this backdrop it is unsurprising that RJB's share price is falling. The Asfordby closure will prompt further downgrades.

Mr Kernot said: "I had a target price of 300p a share but I am re-doing my numbers with the Asfordby closure. The reality is that I will be reducing my target price to below 300p."

Even if the coal industry is not doing well, Budge certainly is. He made £2 million during last year's share buyback and paid himself more than £600,000 a year. And his supporters believe that he is a brilliant wheeler dealer who can be expected to pull himself out of yet another scrape.

Hardern target

AS ANOTHER building society vows to spurn the speculators, I wonder what has happened to dear old Michael Hardern, the freelance butler whose tilt at the Nationwide was about as solidly constructed as his straw hat.

Overhearing a conversation between two tanned gentlemen, who claim to be confidantes of Hardern, it appears that the king of the carpet-baggers is holidaying in Cornwall and planning his next venture. This is to be an autumnal attempt to



Michael Hardern is planning his next venture while on holiday

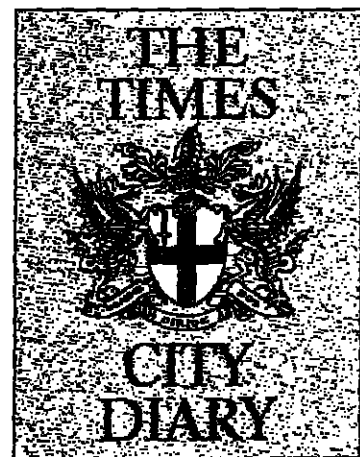
persuade the Co-operative Wholesale Society that it would be better in the public domain than as a co-operative. I would not like to suggest this is a triumph of hope over experience, but I have two little words to say to Hardern — Andrew Regan.

Change of brew

TALKING ABOUT Cornwall, brewing devotees who find the goings on at Merrydown too tame for them should head to the Redruth Brewery, where the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong is being rerun. The brewery was rescued from receivership a couple of years ago by Dransfield Food and Beverage, a company known to the residents of Kowloon for its fine beers and snacks.

All had been going swimmingly, with Redruth enjoying a resurgence thanks to new brews such as Yind Chinese Beer, the US ale Indian Head and the intriguingly named Screamin' Beaver, which is a strong lager aimed at the youth market, apparently. But last week Alex Tse, the Hong Kong-based chief executive, sacked Richard Sommerfeld Jr, the general manager, and Steve Lean, head brewer, resigned in protest.

Tse is keeping mum about the cause of the row, but he is currently trying to find a new boss to run



Redruth so that he can return to Hong Kong. "With the dedication of our staff I believe we can capture the immense potential of the beverage consumption market," Tse says. I suppose this is not the time to remind him that Redruth has just launched a real ale called "Cornish Rebellion".

IT IS not surprising that the doyenne of the bookelling world, WH Smith, is giving a marvellous impression of that farmyard favourite, the headless chicken. This is because it is genuinely headless. Having accepted the job of number three at BT, Bill Cockburn, the chief executive, decided to take the whole of August off on holiday. He will then return refreshed in time to join BT in October.

where they are currently performing their own headless chicken act.

Mull over it

AMONG THE tasks that Barry Gibson needs to perform as the new chief executive of Littlewoods will be to educate the staff on British geography. According to the group's home shopping business — the picturesque port of Oban on the West Coast of Scotland is an island. Angus MacColl, a conductor on ScotRail, ordered a cooker only to be told it could not be delivered as it was not policy to send a Littlewoods van to an "offshore island". After much argy-bargy, the Merseyside group has now admitted that Oban is on the mainland. "It was a postcode error. Apparently Oban has the same code as an offshore island." That will give Gibson something to Mull over.

If only...

TO KENSINGTON High Street where tomorrow a Yellow Robin Reliant from the TV programme *Only Fools and Horses* will trundle up to the Magnet showroom with trade unionists leading the strike at the troubled kitchen maker. According to the GMB and the T&G, 350 skilled cabinet makers were fired by Magnet a year ago and the subsequent strike has cost the group £7 million — 100 times what it would have been to settle it. Phil Davies, of the GMB, will

then present Magnet management with a trophy showing a cartoon of money being poured down a drain. Its name — the Bob Ayling award for macho management.

IN HIS hour of need, NatWest's Derek Wanless has turned to Norman Blackwell, who has been appointed director of group corporate development at the ailing bank. Blackwell was head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit from February 1995 until May 1997. I hope Wanless has a bit more luck than Blackwell's previous employer.

JASON NISSE



"Up or down, Sir? I wouldn't really like to hazard a guess..."

IMPULSE PURCHASE?

island company n. 1 companion of Robinson Crusoe 2 a desert island disc 3 an overseas company incorporated in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

concert parties n. 1 bunfight which typically involves a large number of musicians 2 group of persons acting in concert to acquire a company's shares.

close company n. 1 organisation which lacks either windows or air-conditioning 2 a company which for the purposes of corporation tax is considered to be under the control of five or fewer participants.

pyramid selling n. 1 time-share operation run by ancient Egyptians (usu. 1 week for 5,000 years) 2 a system of selling goods in which agency rights are sold on to an increasing number of distributors.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION

* Fight expected on CRR, Community Action Program.
Ex-senator & lobbyist joins the significant vote
of Pacific County backing from coalition @ last

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

[illegible]

Tax avoidance transfers fail in aim

McNiven (Inspector of Taxes) v Westmoreland Investments Ltd

Before Mr Justice Carnwath
[Judgment July 24]

Pre-ordained circular transfers of money between an investment company and a pension scheme that owned the company, by way of loans and replacement loans that were made for no commercial purpose apart from the avoidance of liability to tax, fell within the anti-avoidance principles laid down by the House of Lords in *Ramsay* (No 2) Ltd v IRC [1992] AC 300.

The payments by the investment company in the pension scheme were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (allowance of charges on income) and were thus not available for set-off against the company's profits.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the Crown from the determination of the special commissioners that had allowed an appeal by Westmoreland Investments Ltd against the refusal of its tax inspector to allow deductions in respect of payments of interest in computing its total profits for accounting periods from 1987 to 1990.

The shares in the company were held by the Electricity Supply Pension Scheme, an exempt approved scheme for tax purposes. In the 1970s the company had suf-

fered large losses and in 1980 a decision was taken to wind down its activities and many of its properties were sold.

During the 1980s loans were made by the scheme to the company, on which arrears of interest of some £32 million accrued. In 1988 the scheme lent about £20 million to the company some of which was repaid to the scheme as interest.

By 1989 the company held no properties but in March 1990 purchased one for £1.3 million. In October 1989 and January 1990 it borrowed further amounts of £3 million and £24 million from the scheme, much of which was used to pay the balance of the arrears of accrued interest. In December 1990 the company was sold.

Corporation tax assessments were made against the company for periods from 1987 and 1992 on the basis that the payments of interest made by the company were not available for set-off.

Section 338 of the 1988 Act provides:

"(1) ... in computing the corporation tax chargeable for any accounting period of a company any charges on income paid by the company in the accounting period, so far as paid out of the company's profits brought into charge to corporation tax, shall be allowed as deductions against the total profits."

By section 338(3)(a) "charges on income" included payments of yearly interest.

Mr Christopher McCall, QC, for the Crown; Mr David Milne, QC

and Mr Adrian Shipwright for the company.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that an initial point taken by the Crown was that the company during 1989 and 1990 was not an investment company, having disposed of its property investments and retained nothing except a small amount of investments and money on deposit.

The special commissioners rejected that submission holding that the company never fell out of the section 130 definition of "investment company".

They were correct, being entitled to look at the activities of the company over a longer period than the three years under review and to conclude that there had been no definite change in the type of its business.

Next, the Crown relied on the anti-avoidance cases beginning with *Ramsay* and leading most recently to *IRC v Macclesfield* (The Times June 20, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 991).

Mr McCall sought to apply that approach to the construction of the word "payment" in section 338(3)(a) of the Act, with reference to what were asserted to be payments of interest by the company. He said there were no such payments within the meaning of the Act since the purported payments were effected by an artificial circulation of money designed purely for the purposes of tax avoidance.

Mr McCall was clearly right. The case was a relatively straightforward application of the *Ramsay* principle. The arrangements

whereby the loans made in the early 1980s were replaced by new loans were a pre-ordained series of transactions. They did have real business consequences, in that the new loans were on different terms as to repayment from the old loans.

But what mattered was that the arrangements for transfer of funds from the scheme to the company and back again to the scheme were steps inserted for no commercial purpose apart from the avoidance of liability to tax, that was the conversion of a notional interest obligation, which had no tax significance, into one which could be used to reduce future tax liabilities. Those circular transactions had therefore to be disregarded.

The result of that process was, that although the terms of the loans had changed, the payments were to be treated for tax purposes as never having happened.

Mr Milne, relying on *Cairns v MacDiarmid* (1982) 56 TC 566, *Customs and Excise Commissioners v Faith Construction Ltd* (1990) 1 QB 905, *Ensign Tankers (Leasing) Ltd v Stokes* (1992) 1 AC 653 and *Pigott v Statens Investments Ltd* (1995) STC 1141 argued that the Crown was wrong to focus on the payment without regard to the underlying obligation. He said that where a company made a payment to discharge a debt which it undoubtedly owed, it was impossible to say that the payment had no business purpose.

Finally, Mr Milne said, that if one had regard, as Lord Steyn suggested in *McGuckian*, to ordinary principles of purposive construction, the Crown's interpretation read far more into the word "payment" than the draftsman intended.

The commissioners rejected the Crown's argument based on *Ramsay*, holding that all the loans were real loans used by the company for real purposes and that there was a "payment" of interest in the ordinary sense of the word.

However, the commissioners failed to address the critical issue, namely whether the circular payments were inserted in the arrangement for any other reason than tax.

Even if one treated the arrangement as a restructuring of the loans, it did not require money to be transferred from one account to the other and back again. Nor did the finding that those payments were "real", whatever that meant, affect the matter.

The payments of interest in 1988 to 1990 which were made wholly out of money borrowed from the scheme, were not payments of interest for the purposes of section 338 and the commissioners were wrong to allow them as charges on income.

Solicitors: Meaby & Co, Camberwell; Herbert Smith.

Abraham and Another v Thompson and Others

Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Potter

[Judgment July 24]

The court had no inherent jurisdiction to order a plaintiff to give security for costs outside the complete regime provided in Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 726 of the Companies Act 1985 in respect of limited companies unless a situation amounting to an abuse of process existed.

The right of a plaintiff to bring a properly pleaded and constituted action in good faith took precedence over the interest of a defendant who might be unable to recover costs against an impecunious plaintiff. It was preferable that a successful defendant should suffer the injustice of irrecoverable costs than that a plaintiff with a genuine claim should be prevented from pursuing it.

Where a defendant suspected that a plaintiff was being funded by a third party and that any costs order made against the plaintiff at trial might be difficult to enforce, the proper course was to allow the action to proceed to trial then if the need arose, to make an application under section 51(1) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 for the third party to pay the defendant's costs.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plain-

tiffs against an order of Mr Justice Lloyd (The Times May 15, 1997) that the first plaintiff, Roger Adrian Abraham, disclose to the fifth and sixth defendants, Domingos Antonio Martins Da Silva and Jose Humberto Mendoza De Sousa, whether and if so what third parties were funding his costs of the action.

Mr Stanley Burnton, QC and Mr Kenneth Maclean for the appellants; Mr Michael Bloch and Miss Camilla Bingham for the respondents.

LORD JUSTICE POTTER reviewed the authorities and said that the key was sought on the basis of the dicta of Lord Justice Kennedy in *Condell v Hislop* ([1996] 1 WLR 753) that if the circumstances suggested that if the litigating party were to lose, an order for costs would be difficult to enforce, against the maintenance of a stay could be imposed. His Lordship disagreed with that observation.

The starting point for cases where a stay was sought in circumstances not provided for by statute or the Rules of the Supreme Court should be the fundamental principle that an individual, who was not under a disability, a bankrupt or a vexatious litigant, was entitled to untrammelled access to a court of first instance in respect of a bona fide claim based on a properly pleaded cause of action, subject only to the sanction

that he was in peril of an adverse costs order if unsuccessful, in respect of which the opposing party might resort to execution and/or bankruptcy if such order were not complied with.

That principle was subject to the further proviso that, if the court were satisfied that the action was not properly constituted or pleaded, or was not brought bona fide in the sense of being vexatious or otherwise an abuse of process then the court might dismiss the action or impose a stay whether under the specific provisions of the Rules of the Supreme Court or the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

Imposition of a requirement that security for costs be provided subject to the sanction of a stay was a plain fetter upon the exercise of such right of access. That was a principle underlying and recognised by Order 23 which excluded from its regime for security any individual not within the categories specifically provided for.

In those circumstances, when the defendant to a properly constituted and pleaded action brought bona fide, applied for a stay unless security for his costs was provided, for the court to grant a stay under its inherent jurisdiction was in principle to act in opposition, rather than as a supplement, to the provisions and underlying policy of the rules.

There were two conflicting considerations involved in such a case. One was the right of an individual plaintiff freely to pursue a bona fide action lawfully brought. The other was the interest which the defendant had in being protected as to his costs if he were successful.

The former had hitherto been rightly recognised as paramount, subject to such protection from its consequences as provided by (a) the legislature or rule-making authority to the defendant by way of enforcement or provision for enforcement to prevent abuse of its process. In this case the defendant sought to achieve under (b) a wider basis of protection than it had hitherto been prepared to grant.

Any such extension should be by an addition to the rules, not in the guise of a condition attached to an application for a stay where the abuse of process was alleged to be demonstrated.

The jurisdiction to grant a stay in advance of a determination under section 51(1) of the 1981 Act should be limited to cases where it could clearly be demonstrated that a situation amounting to abuse of process existed.

Lord Justice Millett delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance, DWF, Freeman.

Reasons for planning consent not required

Regina v Aylesbury Vale District Council and Another, Ex parte Chaplin and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Waller
[Judgment July 31]

The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 did not impose any general duty on a local planning authority to give reasons for granting an application for planning permission and it made no difference that an identical application had been refused by it earlier in the year.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments when dismissing an appeal by Mr John Chaplin and seven other applicants from the dismissal by Mr Justice Keene on July 5, 1996, of their application for judicial review of the decision of Aylesbury Vale District Council on September 5, 1995, to grant planning permission to Mr Harold Price for the erection of two houses at Barracks Farm, Nash, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Rabinder Singh and Miss Karen Steyn for the applicants; Miss Nathalie Lieven for the district council; Mr Price did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE PILL said that

the underlying planning issue had been whether the site was or was not within the existing built-up area of Nash. On January 5, 1995, the planning committee had rejected a recommendation by the planning officer and refused permission.

An appeal was lodged against that refusal but before it was heard the planning department submitted a further report to the committee who, after a site visit and a further application in respect of the site, on September 5 granted permission, subject to conditions.

The applicants' submissions had to be considered in the context of a statutory framework under which an applicant for planning permission had a statutory right of appeal against the refusal to grant permission: see section 78 of the 1990 Act.

There was no equivalent statutory right in a person aggrieved by the grant of a planning permission to appeal against the grant.

Further, a local planning authority was required to give reasons for refusing an application or imposing conditions. There was no equivalent statutory duty to give reasons for a grant of permission.

Mr Singh submitted that there

was a duty to give reasons for the grant of permission when, earlier, an identical application had been refused. It was, he said, important that those concerned should know the reason for the change of mind.

He further submitted that it was important for public confidence. The obligation to give reasons focused the minds of the decision-makers. There was, he said, a developing common law duty to give reasons for administrative decisions.

He relied on the need for consistency in administrative decisions. It was unlawful, he said, to make apparently inconsistent decisions without giving a good explanation.

In the present statutory context the existence of a general duty to give reasons for the grant of planning permission could not be found. Such an obligation was conspicuously absent from the statute.

That contrasted with the obligation on a planning inspector to make a statement of reasons for a decision following a planning appeal: paragraph 8 of Schedule 6 to the 1990 Act. But that obligation should not, by analogy, be ex-

tended to cover the situation where no duty was imposed in the statute.

There remained the question whether in this particular case the later decision was unlawful in the absence of an explanation for the decision being different from that reached in January.

It was to be accepted that there was a possibility that there could be a situation in which an obligation to give reasons for a grant of permission arose. But the present decision could not be impugned for lack of reasons.

Although the answer might not have been easy, the question posed for the consideration of the committee was clear. There had been a single issue and its planning advisers had been consistent in making a judgment in favour of the grant of permission.

There was no evidence of any lack of good faith on the part of the members or of their taking irrelevant considerations into account.

There was a good and obvious reason for the second decision and no obligation to spell it out arose by reason of the previous refusal.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Waller agreed.

Solicitors: Kingsford Stacey; Mrs Joanna E. Swift, Aylesbury.

Bench should show costs bill to other side

Hutber v Gabriele

Before Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment July 31]

In normal circumstances a magistrate making an order for costs should show the bill of costs to the other party.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mr Carl Hutber against a decision of Miss Audrey Jennings, West London stipendiary magistrate, on October 15 and November 6, 1996 dismissing his summons against Mr Charles Gabriele for common assault and making an order for costs against him.

Mr Dominik Bell for Mr Hutber; Mrs Miranda Moore for Mr Gabriele.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said after the magistrate dismissed the summons she announced she would make an order for costs against the

appellant. The respondent handed the magistrate a computer printout of his solicitor's costs. The magistrate did not show the printout to the appellant who did not request sight of it.

The printout showed solicitor's costs of £23,000. The magistrate decided to quantify costs immediately as there was no provision to have costs taxed under section 19 of the Prosecution of Offenders Act 1985.

The magistrate heard the appellant's objections to any award of costs but made an order of costs of £10,000.

The appellant submitted that he should have been given an opportunity to examine and comment on the printout. The respondent submitted that he had had the opportunity to request sight of it but had not availed himself of the opportunity.

The appellant referred to part

VII of Practice Note ([1991] 2 All ER 924) and paragraph 3 of Costs in Criminal Cases (General) Regulations (SI 1986 No 1335) which stated, inter alia, that magistrates must hear representations from the parties prior to making an order for costs.

However, the fact of the matter was the appellant had not asked to see the computer printout. In the normal course of events a magistrate should of his or her own motion take steps to show a bill of costs to the other side.

However, that did not take away the responsibility of counsel to request sight of a bill of costs if the magistrate did not ask whether they wished to see it.

Having considered all the circumstances, his Lordship held the costs order was reasonable.

Lord Justice Henry agreed.

Solicitors: Meaby & Co, Camberwell; Herbert Smith.

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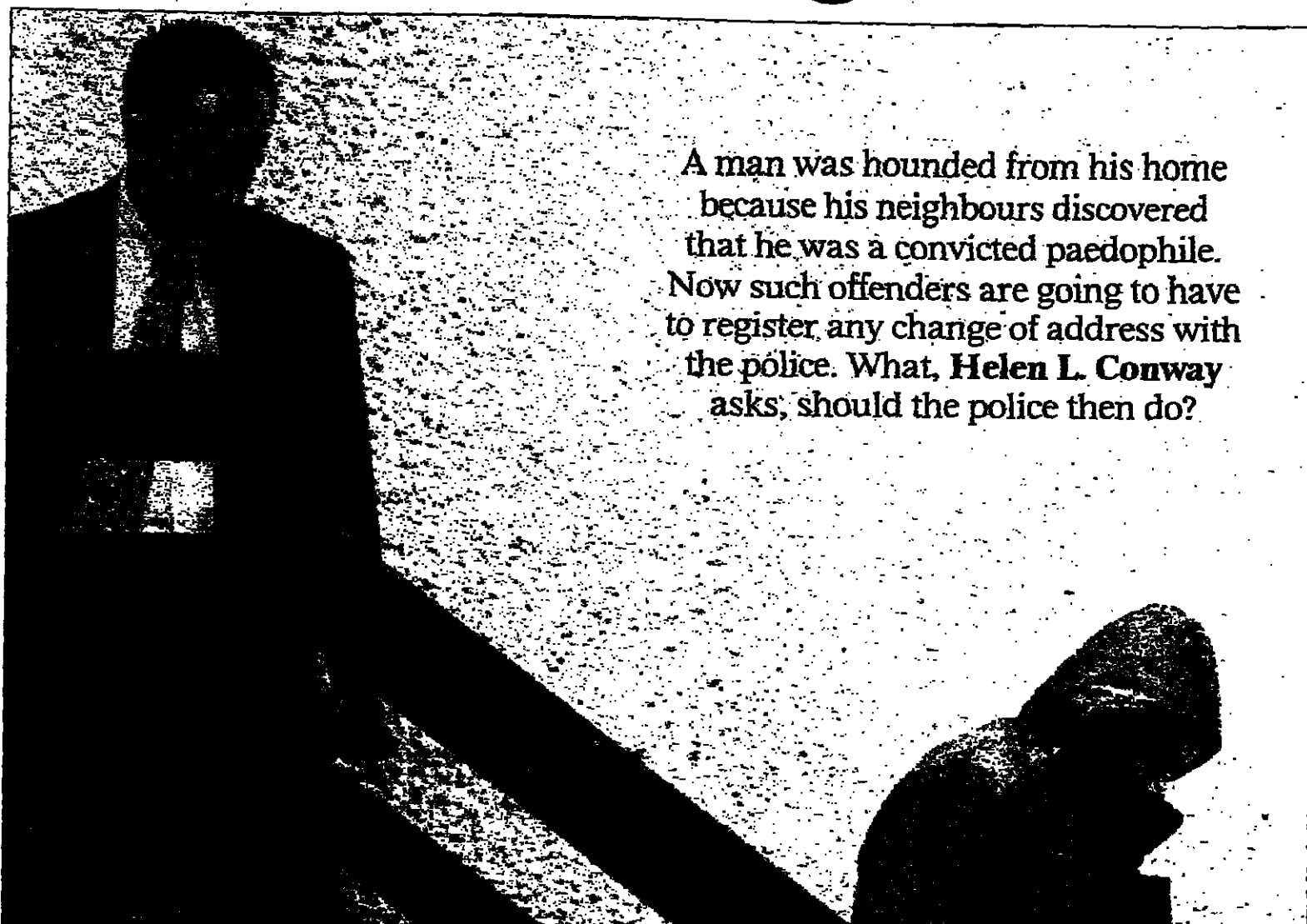
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LAW

● DEFAMATION BY E-MAIL 32
● LET'S TANGO 32

Trial by neighbour



A man was hounded from his home because his neighbours discovered that he was a convicted paedophile. Now such offenders are going to have to register any change of address with the police. What, Helen L. Conway asks, should the police then do?

Christie, right, is escorted to safety from his hostel after coming under pressure from concerned local people

Picture: Chris Clark/Newsflash

Calls are increasingly being made for the public to be given more information about the whereabouts of paedophiles. Home Office statistics published in June indicate that there are now 110,000 convicted child molesters in England and Wales. The new Sex Offenders Act, to come into force on September 1, will require such offenders to register any change of address with the police. Should that information be passed on?

Recently, two paedophiles brought a case against North Wales Police, claiming that the disclosure of their addresses was an infringement of their privacy. Despite the paedophiles having been driven out of several homes since their release from prison, the Lord Chief Justice confirmed that the police action had been lawful.

New Home Office guidelines confirm, however, that the police are not required to warn people of the presence of known sex offenders: it is a matter for their discretion. Disclosure should be "exceptions to general policy of confidentiality".

A balancing act must be performed in each case. Does the need to protect innocent children from a genre of offenders with a notoriously high recidivism rate justify release of personal information about those criminals? It may be

that, on balance, the public's safety outweighs the civil rights of individuals who have caused harm in the past. Still, one question remains: what good will disclosure do?

Certainly, it may equip parents to be vigilant with their children. But is that really an addition to the duties of responsible parents who, sadly, already need to be aware of the potential risk from as yet undetected paedophiles? So what else can a community do with the information?

A mother connected with a community group recently applied for a prohibited steps order to banish a paedophile from the 'Huyton' area near Liverpool. Reporting restrictions were placed on the outcome of that case, and there are no other reported cases on the issue. The theoretical power to make such an order does, however, exist.

In the recent case of *Burris v Azadani*, it was accepted that the courts have powers to make injunctive orders with an exclusion-zone clause. In that case, a woman and her child were harassed by a man whose advances she had rejected. The court ordered that he should not come within 250 yards of her house.

Both the High Court and the lower county courts have an inherent jurisdiction to protect children from harm irrespective of the proceedings

in which that need arose. A caveat must be added — at least an arguable claim for relief other than an injunction must exist before the inherent jurisdiction can be used.

If an offender specifically threatens to commit a further unlawful act such as assaulting a child, then a tort, or a civil wrong, is committed at that point. That alone would enable a claim for damages to be brought if some harm were

Indefinite sentences for child abuse may be the solution

caused; general distress and fear would suffice.

An injunction can, where appropriate, be granted before a tort is committed. Because parental responsibility gives consequential rights and duties over a child, injunctions may prevent interference with the exercise of those duties. Applications under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 for contact, residence or prohibited steps orders may thus be the "door" to an injunction.

Whatever the action, the conditions for an injunction must be satisfied. Where there

is a clear connection between abuser and child, remedies — either public or private — under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996 (to be implemented in October) would be more easily available. If child and respondent are not "associated persons", the facts of the case would have to show a sufficient link to persuade the court to exercise its powers. In *Burris v Azadani*, the Master of the Rolls stated that "[the defendant's liberty] must be respected up to the point at which it infringes or threatens to infringe the rights of the plaintiff". A general threat to a community as a whole would probably not suffice. Other solutions are similarly limited.

The Mental Health Act does not allow for paedophiles to be held in secure hospitals "by reason only of sexual deviancy". Nor do probation or police have powers to tag or supervise closely many offenders.

So one must wonder what the release of specific information on offenders can achieve. Advocates of information provision "in the public interest" will use that information responsibly. Sadly, incidents such as the hounding of Alan Christie from a hostel in Stirling earlier this year show that lynch-mob mentalities tend to prevail.

Campaigns to protect child-

Bid the barbarians goodbye — mediate

The Government is pausing for breath before implementing Lord Woolf's reforms of civil justice. The former Treasury mandarin, Sir Peter Middleton, is reviewing Woolf and is due to report to the Lord Chancellor by the end of next month.

The review is a fresh chance for those who wish to see more pressure put on lawyers to use alternative methods of resolving disputes (ADR). Draft rules of court, due before the general election, had been expected to sidestep one of the most controversial recommendations made by Lord Woolf in his July 1996 report — costs penalties for those who "refuse unreasonably a proposal by the court that ADR should be attempted or [who] act uncooperatively in the course of ADR".

The doubters argue that there will be problems of definition and of evidence if a litigant tries to establish such behaviour by an opponent.

Costs rules tend to be an arcane specialism.

But this debate is of real importance. Is ADR doomed forever to stand at the door of the courts and wait? Or will the delay occasioned by the Middleton review actually further Lord Woolf's aim? For years, mediation has been the coming conqueror; it would, it was believed, sweep away barbarian litigators and usher in more civilised ways.

Although a few thousand cases have been mediated by the two main ADR groups since 1990, both claiming success rates of more than 90 per cent, they represent a tiny percentage of total litigation.

Given that mediation is consensual and an alternative to traditional court-based methods, it is ironic that the chances

of increased take-up probably hang upon "official" recognition, particularly by the courts, and an element of coercion. This was also the case in other jurisdictions. In both Australia and the United States, litigants and lawyers' experience of mediation has been increased by "settlement weeks", in which judges and senior lawyers have acted as mediators to clear backlogs of court cases.

Australian and American lawyers are far more likely to have had experience of ADR than their British counterparts. What are the obstacles to the wider take-up here? In 1994, the Bristol Law Society set up a mediation scheme, with services provided by the two big independent suppliers, CEDR and the ADR Group. Because the Court Service and Legal Aid Board declined to join the project, mediation could be offered outside the courts only for cases in which neither side was receiving legal aid. Crippled from the start, it is not surprising that the scheme received only 24 referrals by the end of its first year.

and only two were by then in mediation. But lack of official involvement was not the only reason for the low take-up. Solicitors proved reluctant to make referrals, often believing that their cases were not suitable for mediation. From personal experience, I understand this. Although I am in a firm that is a member of the ADR group, with promotional literature in our waiting room, mediated solutions do not automatically suggest themselves when litigating disputes, and clients do not often ask for them.

Two other reasons are sometimes suggested. Lawyers, allegedly, will not recommend mediation because they may lose fees. Moreover, to indicate that one is willing to go to mediation may be taken as a sign of weakness. Research on the Bristol scheme found nobody admitting either to be a factor, but Lord Bingham of Cornhill has said that he believes the second may come into play.

The paucity of research does not help those who are committed to promoting the use of ADR. In America there is now plenty of material available, while of the three schemes operating in courts in London, only one is now the subject of research.

We need to know whether ADR is more likely to catch on in focused areas. And would the availability of legal aid make a difference to take-up? While there has been a fairly low take-up of a general pilot scheme at the Central London County Court, the other two current court-based schemes are in specialist areas. There is a scheme in the Patents County Court and practitioners in the Commercial Court found themselves obliged to confront ADR by a practice direction

issued in June 1996. ADR orders are now apparently being made in about 30 per cent of cases. The procedures adopted in the Commercial Court were recommended by a working party of court users — no doubt an additional reason for their acceptability.

In another well-defined field, family cases, Parliament has given the Legal Aid Board authority to fund mediations. A pilot scheme, starting later this year, will be properly researched. Similar comprehensive research is needed in specialist areas of civil litigation.

We need to understand better the obstacles to a greater use of ADR. If the present election-caused delay to the implementation of Woolf results in research designed to establish how costs incentives and penalties might increase the use of ADR, without infringing the access of individuals to the courts, it will have been worth it.

● The author is head of professional services at Irwin Mitchell and a consultant to the University of Sheffield's Department of Law.



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Not all practitioners are fat cats. Patrick Stevens defends slimline moggies

THE GRIM realities of legal aid work have recently been scrutinised by the Chancery Division judges. Their lordships are more used to big commercial disputes between rich litigants. Therein lies the problem: the judges suspect that some of the legally aided cases are largely spurious and have written to the Lord Chancellor about it.

If the judges had spent a little time in the county court, all this would not have come as such a shock, because a legally aided case is conducted entirely differently from a privately paying one.

Matrimonial work is the obvious example. A typical scenario is that of a husband and wife in their forties with grown-up children. She earns £9,000 a year; he is self-employed and earns £15,000. They were living in a council house but he has moved out to live with another woman. The only assets are joint savings of £12,000, which the man suggests be split equally.

The objective observer might consider this a sensible offer. But the objective observer would quickly go bankrupt as a legal aid lawyer. The first stage is to get legal aid for the wife. This is done by laying claim to all the savings. They are then said to be in dispute and not taken into account for

Pity the legal aid lawyer

assessment purposes. She is within the income limits and legal aid is granted, subject to her paying a contribution. The fundamental difference between private and legal aid work now becomes apparent. The husband is having to pay privately and wants to get matters settled as quickly as possible. The legal aid solicitor is being paid a low hourly rate on matrimonial work and has to work as many hours as possible to stay in business. He is not a fat cat lawyer but a thin and very streetwise moggy.

The first step is to demand that the husband guarantees he will not dispose of his car, worth £3,000. He does not respond. The wife's legal aid is extended for her to get an *ex-parte* injunction to restrain him from selling the car. The husband is becoming

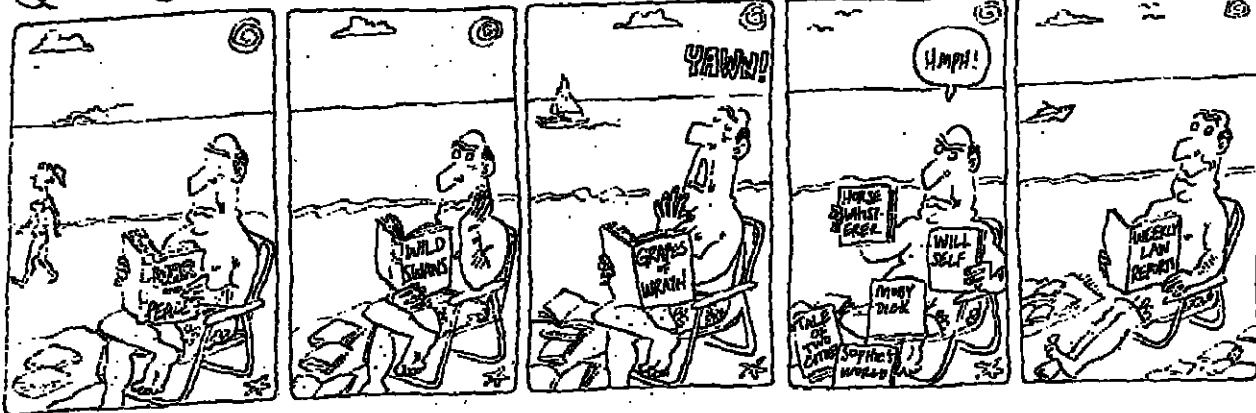
angry. He threatens to thump his wife if she does not leave him alone, so she gets an emergency injunction to restrain him. This is also obtained *ex-parte* and, to avoid the cost of a contested hearing, the husband agrees later to give an undertaking to the court. With a plethora of faxes and affidavits, the slick legal aid practitioner will already have run up a bill of £1,000.

The best tactic is to claim that the husband is concealing assets, working on the side and that his accounts are untrue. This allegation is used to justify picking through every detail of the husband's finances. Any discrepancies will be seized on with glee and used to fuel further investigations, all of which involve letters, faxes, questionnaires, analysis of accounts and bank statements, and endless hours of chargeable work.

If the Legal Aid Board queries the amount of work being done for so little potential benefit, the opinion of counsel, dependent on the solicitor for work, is sought. But the board rarely interferes: this is how the work is done and it knows no different. Of course, only a lunatic would fund such nonsense privately, but fortunately for those employed, common sense is rarely seen in matrimonial legal aid work.

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Be careful what you write on an electronic message system, says David Engel. A libel lawyer may see it

Bad news travels fast out in cyberspace

What is believed to be the biggest action in the UK arising out of defamation by e-mail was settled last month, when Norwich Union publicly apologised in the High Court to a rival private health insurer, Western Provident Association, and agreed to pay Western Provident £450,000 in damages and costs.

The case began when it was discovered that Norwich Union was circulating damaging and untrue rumours on its internal electronic message system to the effect that Western Provident was in financial difficulties. Western Provident sued for libel and slander.

The ephemeral nature of e-mail messages and the threat of the delete button created an obvious evidential problem for Western Provident. Its lawyers therefore decided to take the relatively unusual step of asking the court, before service of the writ, for an order that the offending e-mails should be preserved and hard copies handed over. James Price, QC, argued that the evanescent nature of e-mail communication merited such a radical step. The court agreed. In a novel development, Mr Justice Mance made what is believed to be the first such order. Norwich Union was required to preserve all the relevant e-mail messages and to deliver hard copies to Western Provident's solicitors.

One lesson to be drawn from the case is that the English courts recognise the unique potential for damage of defamation by e-mail, and are willing to sanction draconian measures where appropriate.

The risks for a company with large numbers of employees who are hooked up to the Internet or to an in-house e-mail system are plain. The e-mail provides employees with a dangerously spontane-

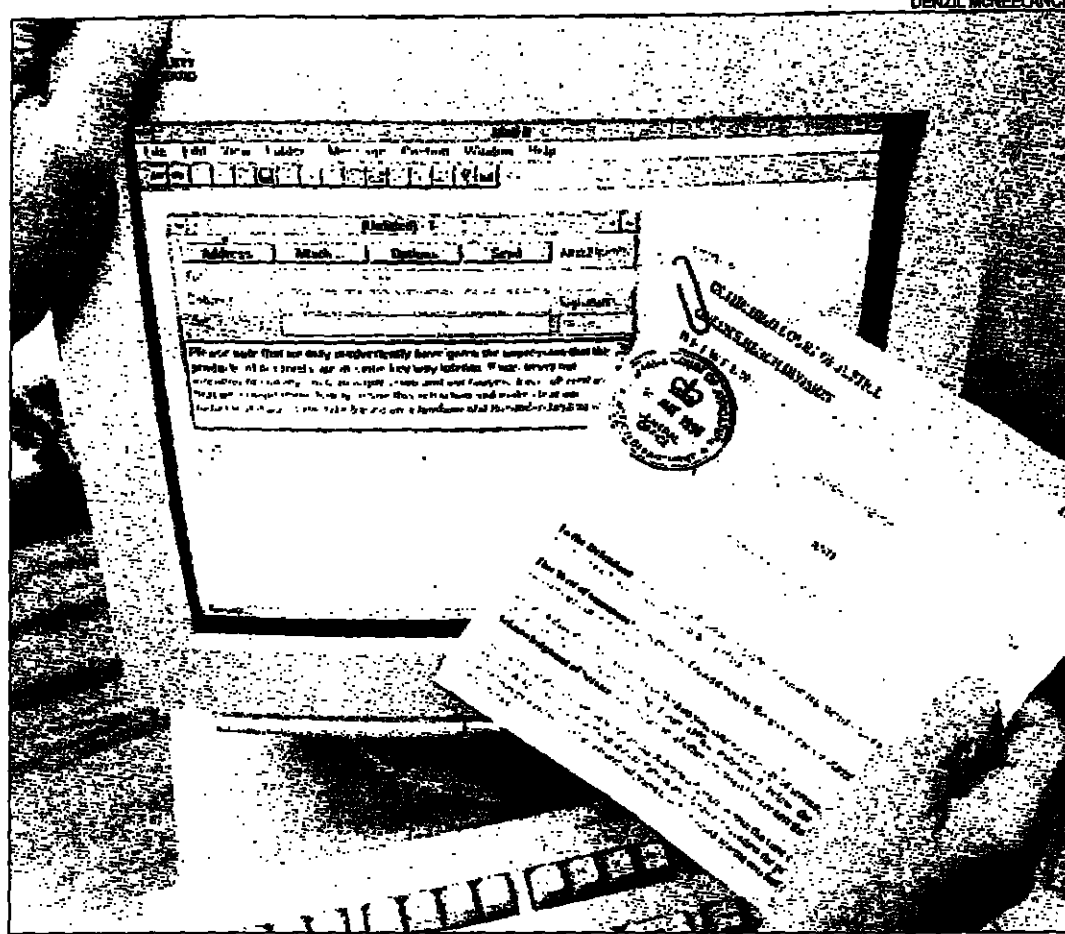
ous means of communication. Psychologically, it seems, most people regard a spoken word as more akin to the spoken than the written word. They tend to give rather less thought to the content of e-mail than they might to a more formal typed memorandum or letter.

On an internal system, with the electronic wizardry providing automatic forwarding and copying, a message or announcement can reach hundreds of employees in an instant. And, as the Western Provident case shows, the courts are then willing to step in to preserve the evidence.

An employer may be able to escape vicarious liability for the actions of its staff by, for example, demonstrating that the employee was acting outside the scope of his employment in putting a libellous e-mail on the system. But that does not get the employer off the hook under defamation law, because the "publisher", as well as the author, is liable. It would be difficult for a company that provided its employees with computers and a link to the Net to argue that it was not a "publisher".

Relief may be at hand for companies in such a position under the new Defamation Act 1996, which provides a defence of innocent dissemination. However, the relevant section of the Act is not clearly drafted. Most practitioners are still scratching their heads over its legal effect, which has not yet been tested in court.

Moreover, liability does not stop at Calais. The aggrieved party may sue in any jurisdiction where the libel is "published", which is likely to mean any country from which the material may be accessed (regardless of where it was initially put on the Net). Few companies would, for example, relish the prospect of being sued in the



E-MAILS, A GROWTH AREA FOR DEFAMATION ACTIONS

■ THERE was an earlier case than that involving Norwich Union — *PC Eggleton v Asda* in 1995. Defamation cases are often unusual, and this was no exception. Eggleton had made a complaint about some faulty goods. By pure chance, he ascertained that an e-mail had been broadcast through Asda's stores network accusing him of what amounted to fraud. His libel action was based on publication within the store's group, and the action was subsequently compromised. Whatever the merits of that case, any defamatory material about a serving police officer would plainly have serious implications for him.

E-mail defamation — on the Internet or elsewhere — will become increasingly common, not least because the creators of such defamatory material may labour under the misapprehension that they or their company are immune from a libel action through "confidentiality". There are now the first signs of, for example, sexual harassment by e-mail, often started by

defamatory comments between male employees about female colleagues. And there may be a mistaken assumption that any such communications are protected by qualified privilege merely because they are on an internal network and "deleted" after opening.

Section 1(3) of the Defamation Act 1996 — commonly known as "the Internet defence" — would not actually apply to this type of libel. The Act also negates any further distinction between libellous material, so that a statement is defined as "words, pictures, visual images, gestures or any other method of signifying meaning". This easily covers e-mail, and is yet another hazard for employers. Best practice suggests that employers ought to include in their employment contracts a prohibition against sending defamatory or harassing e-mails.

MICHAEL GARDNER

■ The author is a litigation partner at Morgan Bruce

United States, with its dollar-hungry juries.

Another lesson to be drawn from the Western Provident case is that if companies are to protect their business reputation from scurrilous and defamatory material in cyberspace, they must act decisively and swiftly, partly because of the perishable nature of the evidence and because of the speed at which bad

news travels by a computer network.

Corporate plaintiffs are generally at a disadvantage when bringing an action for libel. The legal theory is that a company has no feelings that can be hurt and, therefore, such a plaintiff is entitled to only modest damages.

The commercial reality, of course, is rather different. The

speed and potential audience of electronic communication mean that, if it is not dealt with at once, defamation by e-mail can cause huge damage to the business reputation of a company — in a very short space of time.

■ The author is a solicitor and member of the media litigation group at Theodore Goddard, which acted for Western Provident

London lawyers get set to tango

New society promotes ties with Argentina

South America, and Argentina in particular, may be the next boom region. Last month, the Argentine Ministers for the Economy and Foreign Relations were in London, while representatives of professional services have been lobbying for improved relations.

In response, the Law Society has been instrumental in setting up a new Society of British and Argentine Lawyers (Sobal), which held its first meeting, and appointed officers, last month.

Leading the drive for the new society has been Alexandra Sadler, of Blake Laphorn, who is chairman, and Peter Taylor, of Taylors, the secretary, both of whom have personal links with Latin America.

Their enthusiasm for the area makes them keen to dispel outdated images of the country and to present it as one that British lawyers should take seriously. No one doubts Argentina's potential, but a history of high inflation and historic politics has caused a certain amount of scepticism about the possibilities of growth. Through a small core of lawyers in London has a longstanding interest in the country, they are, for the most part, maritime specialists dealing with the Port of Buenos Aires. As Paul Mulholland, a lawyer with Ince & Co and treasurer of Sobal, says: "Buenos Aires has been important for many years as a gateway to South America. Our interest has been largely on behalf of ship owners in the resolution of disputes over the large number of collisions."

Ms Sadler and Mr Taylor say there is more to the economy than prangs on the waterways. Inflation has fallen to reasonable levels and, during the first four months of this year, exports were up almost 18 per cent on the same period of 1996. Car exports alone are expected to double. A significant growth in air traffic

between the UK and Argentina is predicted, with British Airways and Aerolineas Argentinas increasing services. Most important, a process of privatisation is galvanising legal activity, and there has been extensive foreign investment in the banking sector. It was largely for this reason that most of the top law firms, including Clifford Chance, Herbert Smith, Linklaters & Paines and Eversheds, were prepared to back Sobal.

Stephen Roth, the head of the Latin American practice at Clifford Chance, says the firm has recently become busy on capital markets and privatisation work

in Argentina. The country has a solid base of traditional lawyers for routine transactions but it is the new work that needs the services of firms in the global financial centres. "In many respects, it is virgin territory, but at this stage we have no plans to open any offices there," says Mr Roth. "There are many good local lawyers and we have no intention of practising local law."

Latin American lawyers in London are few and far between. Leading the way is Norrish Advogados, with offices in Knightsbridge, Brazil and Argentina. Vera Dantas, a lawyer with the firm, backed the setting up of Sobal and hopes it will help to build links between the two countries. "Sobal is a good initiative," she says. "Relations between Britain and Latin America have never been better and I hope the society will support exchanges of lawyers between jurisdictions."

The creation of Mercosur — a common market comprising Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay — is another key regional development. The Law Society hopes to establish similar associations with other Latin American countries, especially Brazil.

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BRIEFINGS

Businesses are losing millions of pounds a year through inefficient use of the phone. Energis, the business telecoms company, says: "It says small businesses fail to answer 6 per cent of incoming calls and large companies fail to pick up one call in ten. The busiest phone times are around 10am, 1pm, 2pm and 4pm. Energis thinks that 50 per cent of outgoing calls made by businesses achieve nothing because the lines are engaged, calls go unanswered, or the caller declines to leave a message or hangs up after spending time in an automated queueing system."

Office workers consume the equivalent of 15 Jeffrey Archer novels every year because of the growth of unnecessary or unwanted information landing on their desks, BT says. They receive, on average, 15 documents a day and send out a similar quantity.

Rural Enterprise Project at Stanton, near Ware, Hertfordshire, is to recruit parish business ambassadors to support and advise small local initiatives. This is the latest step in a pilot scheme, started two years ago by the county council and East Hertfordshire District Council to stimulate isolated areas and offset unemployment. Call Susan Clark on 01920 822735.

A conference aimed at small exporters will be held by the Federation of Small Businesses at the Café Royal, London, on October 14. The cost is £60, including lunch. Call Sophie Timms on 0171-233 7900.

To meet a millionaire's eye

Mark Andrews finds a master craftsman glad to be expensive

Trevor Proudfoot cannot emphasise it enough: He doesn't come cheap. "If I thought I was getting work because I was the cheapest, that would worry me. I'm not and I'm pleased about that."

It is a simple business philosophy that is standing him in good stead. Mr Proudfoot heads the Cliveden Conservation Workshop, centred on a collection of old buildings on the edge of the renowned Cliveden estate at Taplow, in Berkshire.

The workshop was once an Eton five court, a tennis court, and a mortuary. It is now dedicated, Mr Proudfoot says, "to the conservation of stonemasonry, wall paintings and the decorative arts".

He trained for seven years as a stonemason and went to work for the National Trust, effectively as its resident mason, to advise on the repair and conservation of stonework. Then, eight years ago, and with the Trust's blessing, he became an independent company, retaining separate from the Trust, but retaining the role of adviser. "They are the backbone of our business, but in eight years we have established ourselves nationwide as the leader in



Trevor Proudfoot works on the restoration of two busts with assistant Louisa Pryor at Cliveden

restoration and conservation. "At the moment he and his band of 14 craftsmen and women are involved in £1 million's worth of restoration work around the country and in Turkey, the US and Ireland."

Mr Proudfoot is in the strange situation of being asked by the National Trust to offer advice, then find two or three rival companies to bid for work in competition with himself.

Nevertheless, the National Trust is

still his biggest customer and his main role in life is as an adviser.

The jewel in the company's crown to date is Uppark House, on the Sussex Downs, which was consumed by fire seven years ago. Restoration work cost £24 million and is being hailed as an example of the 20th-century restoration of a 17th-century house. The fire at Uppark House has also provided Mr Proudfoot with work.

He expects work to increase, but admits to terrible blunders when he

started. He spent too much time keeping track of the money and not enough on site. Two business advisers showed him how to run a board meeting and there was help from the Berkshire Enterprise Agency. He now has a volunteer chairman and a volunteer director.

He says: "You're never going to become a rich man out of conservation, but, if you're associated with good work, you can look any millionaire in the eye."

Firms at risk from high-tech fraudsters

By Rodney Hobson

FRAUDSTERS are getting more sophisticated and the spread of office technology has made small businesses more vulnerable, says Latham Crossley & Davis, a firm of Manchester accountants.

Computers, desktop publishing software and image scanners are a boon for fraudsters, John Rafferty, the firm's fraud expert and a former Serious Fraud Office investigator, said.

He added: "Criminals can use colour photocopyers and desktop publishing to produce high-quality forgeries of company letterheads, share certificates and currency. In one case, the US presidential seal and the CIA seal were scanned into a computer and used to create White House and CIA stationery. This was then used to corroborate a fraudster's claim that he was involved with the US Government at the highest level."

Mr Rafferty said: "Although most businesses protect their financial systems, weakness often lies in allowing access to other information. Samples of corporate stationery and other information on the Internet can be very useful to the fraudster. He can create company paperwork and weave the information gained into his story to give it authenticity. A technically efficient fraudster may even plant information within a business's computer

system so that bogus files support his claim to work for the company."

He said businesses should review control systems when introducing new or upgraded technology and check the veracity of documentation and background details on big transactions.

Mr Rafferty said entrepreneurs were also being targeted. "The scam begins with the fraudster advertising cheap start-up loans in local papers, or directly approaching small businesses. Once potential borrowers have expressed interest, the fraudster asks for payment of anything from a few hundred to thousands of pounds to enable him to prepare a business plan to support the loan application. That is often the last you see of the money or the fraudster."



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Widnes serve injunction to block Devereux

By Christopher Irvine

SALE were served yesterday with an injunction by Widnes Vikings Rugby League club, which seeks to prevent them from playing John Devereux, the dual-code Wales international centre, who they signed as a free agent but who Widnes insists is under contract with them until 1999.

Devereux will be absent from Sale's opening match in the Allied Dunbar Premiership on Sunday, not because of instructions from the club's lawyers, but because of a broken nose. He will miss at least the first two weeks of the new season.

Without satisfactory compensation, Widnes are unlikely to drop their action. Devereux, 31, was restricted by injury to only a handful of appearances for Sale last season. He joined on a short-term contract and returned to Widnes for the rugby league season. A broken ankle has meant that he has not played since switching back. Devereux has since sought a full-time return to union, eight years after he left Bridgend for Widnes.

"Sale have indicated to us that they have signed him on the understanding that he was free to do so, but that is not the situation," Tony Chambers, the Widnes chairman, said.

According to Sale, Widnes were in breach of the player's contract because of non-payment and he was thus a free agent. Because of the delay in Devereux's fitness, there is time to resolve the problem, one of several that Sale, last season's beaten Pilkington Cup finalists, face on the eve of the new Premiership season.

The sight that will greet Saracens, the visitors to Heywood Road for the opening match, will be that of a building site. The main stand has been pulled down with confusion as to exactly when a new one will replace it. Estimates range from next month

to December and complications have arisen with the discovery of a Victorian culvert that needs to be filled in.

The only seating for Sunday's match and the foreseeable future will be a temporary stand for 1,300 opposite the clubhouse. Sale's capacity of 7,500, when the work is eventually completed, will be less than half that until the European Conference fixture against Newport on September 20, which is the optimistic forecast of Howard Thomas, the Sale chief executive.

Sale's unidentified financial backers have furnished the club with little in the way of high-profile recruits this summer. Shane Howarth is the third New Zealander to join. Howarth is an English passport-holder and has experienced none of the recurring difficulties regarding work permits encountered by John Mitchell, the player-coach, and Simon Mannix.

Mitchell, now that he is set to remain at Sale, hopes to concentrate this season on his coaching role. However, with John Fowler unlikely to be available until after Christmas and Charlie Vyvyan only just back in training after a broken ankle sustained against Leicester in May, Sale's pack, albeit reinforced by the arrival of Chris Murphy, from West Hartlepool, in the second row, and the temporary one of Graham Dawe, from Bath, as cover at hooker, might yet end up calling on Mitchell sooner rather than later.

Yesterday, Mitchell met Sale officials to discuss a four-year extension to his contract. The club, despite a reported six-figure offer, was alarmed at his possible disappearance to Northampton, but with Ian McGeechan ruling himself out of the England coaching job, there would appear to be no vacancy at Franklin's Gardens.



Rush, who made nine appearances for the All Blacks, is awaiting clearance from New Zealand to join Leicester

Leicester in chase to sign Rush

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

LEICESTER, who have already plunged south of the equator for three of their signings this summer, are seeking to confirm a fourth before the Allied Dunbar Premiership begins on Saturday. They have registered Eric Rush, the New Zealand wing, but must wait to see whether the New Zealand Rugby Football Union (NZRFU) will release him from his contract before being sure of their man.

Rush, 32, is keen to take up a two-year contract at Welford Road in the belief that his days with the All Blacks—he made nine international appearances, most recently against South Africa as a replacement in Christchurch last year—are over. However, like several of his colleagues who agreed comparatively long-term contracts with the

NZRFU, he needs to terminate one before taking up another. Rush's attributes are such that, when he discovered that he was unlikely to win international honours as a flanker, he turned himself, effectively, into a wing and was a member of the New Zealand squad which reached the 1995 World Cup final. His enduring reputation will be as a sevens player, however, and given that Leicester have already acquired the Fijian talents of Waisale Serevi and Marika Vunibaka (who has yet to receive a work permit), they would be a serious force in the abbreviated game if Rush joined them.

He played against England for the Barbarians at Twickenham in 1990, a match in which he was joined in the back row by Neil Back, the Leicester

flanker. Indeed, Rush has been a popular selection for the Barbarians and at one time flirted with Ireland, for whom he has qualifications.

Clubs other than Leicester are waiting for similar contractual clearances from southern-hemisphere unions, among them Saracens, who hope to announce a new signing shortly. If Rush does go to Leicester, it will not be until North Harbour have completed their national provincial championship fixtures in New Zealand in mid-October.

□ Jean Evans, the Wales wing, who began training with his new team-mates at Bath yesterday, said that he will decide in the next few weeks whether or not to retire from international rugby. The wing, capped a record 71 times by his country and a British Isles tour member on three occasions, will tell the Welsh Rugby Union of his decision when he returns from a three-week honeymoon. Evans, 33, says he is unsure whether he still has the appetite left to continue playing for Wales.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Counties to air their views on blueprint

COUNTIES will be given the chance to air their views on Lord MacLaurin's new blueprint for English cricket on September 2. A special meeting of the First Class Forum has been called for that date, initiated by the Somerset chief executive, Peter Anderson, and backed by Northamptonshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Leicestershire and Sussex.

The agreement of six clubs was required under the First Class Council's constitution to call such a gathering. The counties will have the chance to give their response to the "Raising the Standard" document, which was unveiled earlier this month, and called for a three-group county championship, two-division one-day league with promotion and relegation, plus other moves designed to improve the international profile of England cricket.

Free tickets offer

ATHLETICS: Angry spectators upset by Michael Johnson's Crystal Palace walkout were offered a consolation yesterday of free tickets to the farewell performance of Sally Gunnell, the former world and Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, at Tyneside on September 7. Johnson finished fifth in the 200 metres at the Spar British Challenge on Sunday and failed to appear for the 4 x 400 metres relay.

Block on transfers

FOOTBALL: Paris Saint-Germain were handed a 3-0 defeat by Uefa for fielding a suspended player in their European Cup tie against Steaua Bucharest last Wednesday. European football's ruling body amended the result after it emerged that PSG had fielded a suspended player, Laurent Fournier, in the second qualifying round, first-leg match in Bucharest, which Steaua won 3-2.

Leonard stays put

RUGBY UNION: Harlequins have quashed speculation that Jason Leonard, their England and British Lions prop, is about to rejoin Saracens. Donald Kerr, the club's acting chief executive, said: "We have received no offers from Saracens. Jason still has two years of his contract remaining and there's no doubt that he is staying."

Cartwright comeback

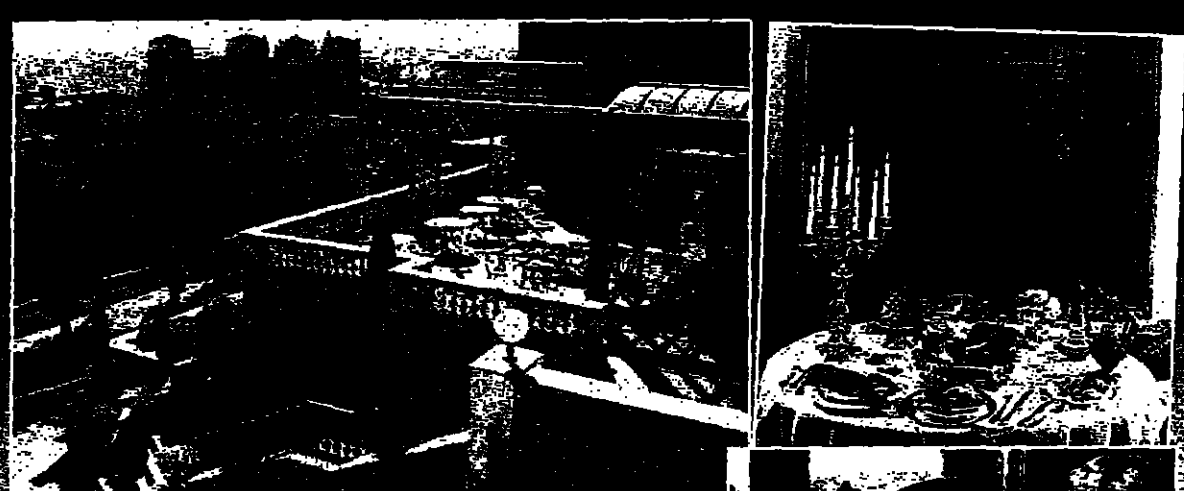
TENNIS: Laura Cartwright, the top seed, proved her return to fitness with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Danielle Hook, of Lancashire, in the first round of the national under-18 championships in Nottingham yesterday. Cartwright had suffered a serious Achilles tendon injury and a fractured foot during the past 12 months.

Doohan decides soon

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan will decide this month whether to stay with the Repsol Honda team or accept an offer to join Yamaha. The Australian clinched the 500cc world championship for the fourth successive year on Sunday when he won the British Grand Prix at Donington Park, his tenth victory in 11 races this season.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	CRICKET	OTHER SPORTS
<p>Kick-off 7.30 unless stated</p> <p>European under-21 championship</p> <p>Qualifying group seven</p> <p>Turkey v Wales</p> <p>(at Al Sami Yen Stadium, Istanbul, 6.30)</p> <p>Group eight</p> <p>Ireland v Lithuania</p> <p>(at Dalymount Park)</p> <p>Scottish Coca-Cola Cup</p> <p>Third round</p> <p>Dundee v Aberdeen</p> <p>Rath v Hearts (7.45)</p> <p>Rangers v Falkirk (7.45)</p> <p>St Johnstone v Celtic (7.45)</p> <p>Vaughan Conference</p> <p>Cheltenham v Hayes (7.45)</p> <p>Leek v Southport (7.45)</p> <p>Slough v Dover (7.45)</p> <p>Telford v Stalybridge (7.45)</p> <p>Welling v Woking (7.45)</p> <p>DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v St Leonards (7.45), Alfreton v Walsingham City, Bromsgrove Rovers v Bath City (7.45), Burton Albion v King's Lynn, Cambridge City v Tamworth, Doncaster Town v Forest Green (7.45), Grimsby Town v Halesowen, Hastings v St Albans, Merton v Salisbury, Rothwell v Kettering, Slough v Wokingham, Wokingham v Wokingham, Wokingham v Wokingham.</p> <p>Middlesex division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>South division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>West division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p>	<p>First division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Second division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Third division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Fourth division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p>	<p>MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Senior division: Amstoph v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Junior division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTRIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Second division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Third division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p> <p>Fourth division: Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke, Basingstoke v Basingstoke.</p>

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Date	Company name	Venue	Score
9 JUN	WOODEN SPOON SOCIETY - SCOTLAND	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOC. OF EDINBURGH	140
6 JUL	GREENWOODS SOLICITORS	ELTON PURZE	148
11 JUL	THE GREENHILLS RESTAURANT	HERONS REACH DIVISION CHARTY GOLF DAY	141
18 JUL	INDEPENDENT AGRICULTURE LIMITED	GOSWICK	137
21 JUL	JAGUAR CENTRE (HULL) LTD	ELSHAM	159
24 JUL	TRAVIS PERKINS	STOKE POGES	137
1 AUG	B & K (LEEDS) LTD	WATERTON PARK	146
6 AUG	AMOLL PHARMACEUTICALS	BELTON WOODS	135
7 AUG	GENERAL TELECOM	STOKE POGES	150
7 AUG	NEJ RESOURCES LTD	CHIEFF	143
7 AUG	K P M G	WEST HILL	140
7 AUG	HYMANS ROBERTSON	ROYAL BURGESS GOLFING SOC. OF EDINBURGH	130
8 AUG	DATA CONNECTION LTD	ENFIELD	150
8 AUG	CORE TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS	SELSDON PARK (L.J.K.) LTD	134
8 AUG	MCDERMOTT MARINE CONSTRUCTION LTD	BALLATER	130
8 AUG	SCIENTIFIC GLASS LABORATORIES LTD	GREENWAY HALL	105
10 AUG	THE LAMP COMPANY	FARTHINGSTONE HOTEL	122
11 AUG	COMMERCIAL UNION TRIANGULAR EVENT	CHERTERTON	146
12 AUG	SPECIALIST COMPUTER CENTRES LTD	WENTWORTH	106
13 AUG	GLYN ROWETT INSURANCE FACILITIES	ST AUSTELL	148
13 AUG	VERNON BUILDING SOCIETY	STOCKPORT	135
15 AUG	EPSOM MEDICAL SERVICES	RAC COUNTRY CLUB	142

FOOTBALL

Wilkinson drills youngsters with academic values

He looked slightly lugubrious, as he always does, chomping on a few neatly-cut sandwiches, teasing them with his mouth as he answered questions, but football's philosopher king was radiating as much happiness as he is able to do for the first time since he was sacked as Leeds United manager last season. Howard Wilkinson was, yesterday, back in charge of a team.

Wilkinson, who has been the technical director of the Football Association since January, was in full flow at the National Sports Centre in Lillleshall after his first session in charge of the England Under-18 team. The building in which his press conference was held was the National Centre for Rehabilitation, a sign said outside, and Wilkinson did his best to live up to the billing.

He has got the best of both worlds now, after all, a track suit job and a chance to indulge the administrative side of his personality that always hovered just below the surface at Leeds. Many have been surprised at how intelligent and far-reaching his proposals for the future of the game have been; his glorious eccentricities, the metaphors

OLIVER HOLT



Football Correspondent

withdrawal symptoms from coaching," Wilkinson said. "I had to produce a report and do that as quickly as possible. At the same time, I had to find my way around a very, very different organisation to the one I had been used to, but I had already made the decision at the start that I would be in charge of one of the teams."

"You always teach better for the benefit of experience and, if you are away from the experience of coaching for a long time, it either becomes

Their creation will bring into being a new breed of soccer professionals

Of course he was pleased to be back in a track suit, he said, after he had put young players such as Matthew Upson, of Arsenal, and Michael Owen, of Liverpool, through their paces. He compared it to the pleasure of playing a round of golf after the endless rounds of planning meetings and reports that he has become embroiled in since he took over as technical director.

Yet the administrator, the ideas man, who has made it a mission to improve the structure of the national game, especially at youth level, quickly came to the fore and, with him, the full gamut of his thoughts, spilling out like a stream of consciousness in a Virginia Woolf novel.

"I have not had time for

Wilkinson said that their creation would bring into being a new breed of professionals, coaches who would require much more comprehensive qualifications than those possessed now. He said he hoped that would eradicate the present situation, in which 50 per cent of youth staff at FA Premier League clubs had changed over the past year.

"For some of these people, they just use the youth system as a step into football," Wilkinson said. "For some, it is a job to give a mate. Some are just desperate for the money and for others it is a whim. The victims are the players and in this case the victims are about as innocent as you can get: the kids."

"These academies are going to become more and more important. Sir John Hall [the Newcastle United owner] told me last week that in ten years' time he would like to see 11 Geordies running out at St James' Park in the Premier League. Circumstances have come together to produce the situation we have got with so many overseas players, but the foreigners will go somewhere else one day and then we will need the academies."

Wilkinson said that because he had been able to stand back from the game for a brief period, he had been able to glimpse the "bigger, better, clearer picture", that he had been able to learn from the youth systems pursued in Holland and Norway, even from the street academies in Soweto, where children play without the inhibition of organised, competitive matches, and the English system suffered in comparison.

"It is Chinese philosophy that says it best," Wilkinson said. "Education is like rowing up a stream: if you stand still, you go backwards."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, goes into hospital today for an ankle operation. Robson has suffered wear and tear over the years and a surgeon has advised that he has an operation. He still aims to take charge for the home match with Stoke City on Saturday.



Wilkinson puts on his thinking cap to resume coaching duties with the England Under-18 team at Lillleshall yesterday

O'Neill out of Lithuania game

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

KEITH O'NEILL, the Norwich City forward, will miss Ireland's group eight World Cup qualifying match against Lithuania in Dublin tomorrow night. He has been ruled out because of back and hamstring injuries.

O'Neill, 21, would have partnered David Connolly, Feyenoord's former Watford striker, in a tie that Ireland have to win to stand a chance of finishing runners-up to Romania, the expected group winners. They would then progress to a two-legged play-off for a place in the finals in France next year.

Niall Quinn, the Sunderland striker, will replace O'Neill. "I spoke to Keith on the phone and it's bad news, a real blow," Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, said yesterday. "At least Niall is now back with us and from what I've seen of him in matches and in training, he looks as fit as ever."

Quinn, 30, who scored for Sunderland in their 3-1 victory against Manchester City, his former club, on Friday, has not played an international

match for more than a year. He has had to undergo three operations to repair a damaged cruciate knee ligament. "I'm just glad to be back in the Irish squad," he said. "I've missed it badly and it's wonderful to be involved again, whether I play or not. I'd love to help the team get to the finals of another World Cup and I just hope my injury problems are now out of the way."

Mark Kennedy, the Liverpool winger, is hoping to use the game at Lansdowne Road to advertise his ability to prospective employers. He has asked for a transfer, after failing to gain a regular first-team place at Anfield, and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, is likely to renew his interest.

"Wimbledon are a very good team who play the kind of game that should suit me," Kennedy said. "I'm feeling particularly unsettled at the moment. You can imagine how it feels when, week after week, you're not picked."

Tony Adams, the Arsenal captain, will make his first appearance of the season today when he plays for the reserves against Portsmouth at Highbury. The England defender underwent surgery on an injured ankle during the summer.

If he comes through unscathed, he should return to the first team for their FA Carling Premiership match at Southampton on Saturday. It would also be welcome news for Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who is likely to be without Sol Campbell, the Tottenham Hotspur defender, for the World Cup qualifying match against Moldova at Wembley on September 10.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, is still pursuing Piotr Nowak, the Poland and Munich 1960, midfielder. Though Francis is believed to have agreed personal terms with Nowak, 33, his German club is not keen to lose him ahead of their UEFA Cup campaign.

THE Football League has imposed a transfer embargo on Notts County, the early leaders of the Nationwide League third division, after their failure to pay players' signing-on fees.

The money was due to be paid to several members of the squad on July 1 as part of their contracts, but when no money was forthcoming, the players complained to the Professional Footballers' Association.

Geoff Davey, the club's managing director, said: "We're having a difficult time in terms of cash-flow, but we're confident that this is only a short-term situation and not a long-term one."

Shaun Teale is hoping to resurrect his career with the Hong Kong club, Sing Tao, after joining them on a three-month loan from Tranmere. The centre back, 33, was loaned out to Preston last season and has not featured in the first team at the start of the new campaign.

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BOWLS

Allcock an early casualty in fours

By DAVID REYS JONES

TONY ALLOCK, the world outdoor singles champion, who skipped his Cheltenham quarter to the English Bowling Association (EBA) fours championship in 1994 and won the national indoor triples title, with Richard Shergold and Andy Willis, in March, made a surprise second-round exit from the national fours championship at Worthing yesterday. Shergold and Willis were with him again, with the quarter completed by Simon Jones, but they were matched wood for wood by an unstung team from Buckden, in Huntingdonshire, who tied the match three times, at 12-12, 15-15 and 17-17, before drawing away in the closing stages to win 20-17.

Mike Lee, Peter Holmes, Bob Price and Robbie Coleman, of Buckden, made the vital breakthrough on the eighteenth end when, at 17-17, they looked likely to drop a count of three or four shots. Coleman's attacking delivery carried the jack through to the ditch for a treble, which put Buckden 20-17 in front.

"We were nervous, but soon settled to a rhythm after taking an early lead," Coleman, 26, said. "After we got that three, Tony was playing catch-up over the last three ends and it was, I must say, a very tricky rink on which to be in trouble."

Among the new favourites for the title are Clevedon and Bridgewater BCL from Somerset, Erdington, Court, from Warwickshire, and Swindon Westleycott, from Wiltshire, all of whom reached the third round. Totnes, who were thought to be in with a good chance, lost to Southwick, a local side, skipped by Terry Stevens.

Huntingdonshire have two teams through — Belvedere, a Peterborough club, who defeated Stameless, and Banbury Borough — while Cambridge-shire, the only county to have accepted the EBA's invitation to wear coloured shirts, also have two in the third round.

Bridgewater have last year's triple champions on board, while half of Erdington Court's quartet — Robbie Robinson and Richard Britton — won the pairs' prize in 1992. Roy Hedges, the Clevedon No.2, and Pip Braundfield, their No.3, won the triples separately in 1979 and 1984 respectively.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CRYSTAL PALACE: Sports British Challenge Meet, 100m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 10.12sec; 200m: 1 V Jones (Ireland) 21.02sec; 400m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 1:03.11; 800m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 2:04.54; 1500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 4:10.54; 2000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 5:40.54; 2500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 7:10.54; 3000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 8:40.54; 3500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 10:10.54; 4000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 11:40.54; 4500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 13:10.54; 5000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 14:40.54; 5500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 16:10.54; 6000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 17:40.54; 6500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 19:10.54; 7000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 20:40.54; 7500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 22:10.54; 8000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 23:40.54; 8500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 25:10.54; 9000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 26:40.54; 9500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 28:10.54; 10000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 29:40.54; 10500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 31:10.54; 11000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 32:40.54; 11500m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 34:10.54; 12000m: 1 D Bailey (Ireland) 35:40.54; 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CRICKET

Lee bowls closer to Australia debut at the Oval

By RICHARD HOBSON

CANTERBURY (final day of three): The Australians beat Kent by six wickets

SHANE LEE wore the expression of a contented soul as he sat on the players' balcony and strummed his guitar. Out in the middle, Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan steered the Australians to a third first-class victory of the tour against county opposition.

They put on 90 for the unbroken fifth wicket, but Kent squandered opportunities to split the stand and set up a closer finish. Such a criticism cannot be levelled at Lee. The past week has seen him plucked from Enfield, a Lancashire League side, into the Ashes party and, with eight wickets in the match, he is closer to a Test debut than ever.

Mark Taylor, the captain, said before leaving with his family for a sightseeing trip to London that Shaun Young, also uncapped, was more likely to fill the vacancy for a third seamer in the sixth and final

Test at The Oval on Thursday. "Shane will really have to out-bowl Shaun to have any chance," Taylor said.

Lee did just that and, if his stock rose gradually over the first two days, then his prospects improved dramatically in the initial session yesterday. Steve Waugh, the acting captain, who will help to pick the Test side this evening, withdrew Young from the attack after three overs costing 19 runs. Lee bowled 11 overs, took the second new ball and claimed three wickets for five runs in the space of 18 balls to finish with four for 86 in the innings and eight for 113 in the match.

Waugh said: "In the first innings, Shaun was maybe trying too hard, but in the second he performed the containing job we would want at The Oval. Shaun might still be just in front because he has played first-class cricket here all summer for Gloucestershire, but that was the best I have seen Shane bowl in first-class cricket. He settled into a

good rhythm, swung the ball and worked the batsmen out."

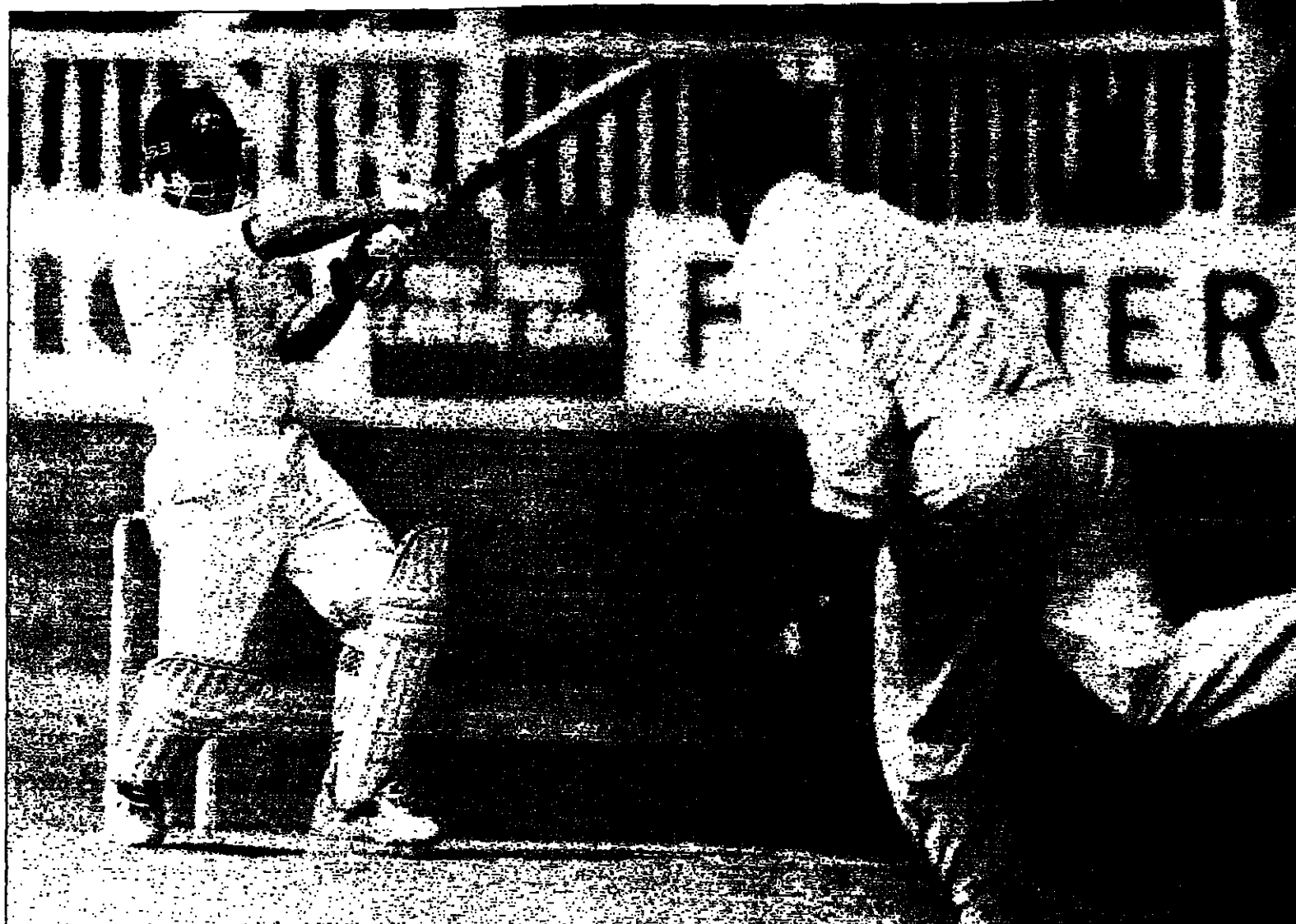
Fleming could consider himself unfortunate to be caught off a genuine leg glance, while Marsh pulled to mid-wicket and Strang edged to slip as Lee took a grip. Ponting missed Thompson first ball and Michael Slater, more embarrassingly, dropped a straightforward chance from Ealham at cover. Either would have given Lee the first five-wicket haul of his career.

Ealham progressed to 85 from 118 balls, quickly in position to cut and drive. Ponting, however, atoned for the earlier mistake by holding a wonderful, right-handed catch at mid-wicket when Ealham pulled Kasprovic off the front foot seemingly for his fourteenth four.

The Australians required 230 from a minimum of 60 overs. They set off apace, for the first time on the tour. Slater resembled the dashing opening batsman who became such a perfect foil for Taylor in England in 1993. Before striking 47 yesterday, his aggregate had been 26 and his aggregate of 159 runs is just seven more than in the Test innings at Lord's four years ago that earmarked him as a greatly talented player.

Few would have begrudged him the three runs to raise his half-century. Instead, he went back to a delivery by Fleming that nipped in to uproot his off stump. Mark Waugh clipped to mid-wicket and Ponting briefly struggled against the leg spin of Strang. Fleeter footwork helped him to overcome the challenge though and, like Bevan, he began to work the ball into the gaps.

Dean Headley, who missed this contest, will have a test on his injured heel when England convene at The Oval today, but is confident of proving his fitness.



Hitting out against Igglesden at Canterbury yesterday, Slater shows the dashing form that made him an Australia opening batsman

Spirited Pakistanis fall at final hurdle

By BARNEY SPENDER

CHELMSFORD (final day of four): ECB XI beat Pakistan A by five wickets

THE colleague in the press box who confidently predicted that this match would be over by lunchtime duly lost his 50p yesterday for the simple reason that the Pakistanis, mindful that this was their last game on tour, opted for a scrap rather than a surrender.

When the ECB XI began their quest for the 107 runs that they needed to win, they lost both openers, Maddy and Lewis, in the first six overs to some highly-charged fast bowling from Abdul Razzaq and Azhar Mahmood. Then, after a steady partnership

of 63 between Grayson and Hearn, they lost three more to the wiles and turn of Shoaib Malik, the 15-year-old off spinner, and Ali Hussain Rizvi, the leg spinner.

Another 50 runs would have made the chase interesting, but the English batsmen were always just ahead of the game and Dougie Brown, of Warwickshire, completed a memorable match by cuffing Mahmood for the boundary that brought the winning runs at 2.25pm.

Brown, who made 43 in the first innings, had started the day by taking the outstanding Pakistani A wicket when Rizvi provided Nixon with his eighth dismissal of the match in the fourth over. With career-best figures of eight for

89 and 11 wickets in the match, an England A tour is now well within his compass. "Put it like this, if you perform well in these games, it can't do you any harm," Graham Gooch, the ECB XI manager and England selector, said.

For the Pakistanis, there was disappointment at finishing their tour with a first-class record of just one win, against Somerset, set against defeats by Derbyshire, MCC, Yorkshire and the ECB. Yet Agha Zahid, the coach, was in ebullient mood. "This is a very young team, the average age is under 20, so it has been good for them to experience the conditions here and also the daily diet of cricket," he said. "It has pushed them along to the point that I would expect

five or six of them to play Test cricket very soon."

Three — — Muhammed Wasim, Saleem Elahi and the precociously-gifted Hassan Raza — have already had a taste of the Test arena, but there can be little doubt that Mahmood, the all-rounder who kept them in this game on Sunday, and Shoaib Akhtar, the fast bowler, will soon be there, too.

"Shoaib Akhtar has been the find of the tour," Aghar said. "At times, he has bowled as fast as Waqar Younis, he has learned well, but now he needs to play in the Test team, where he will learn and improve much more quickly. He needs to make that step up."

All Naqvi, the opening bats-

man, who made a fine century against MCC, Iaved Qadeer, the wicketkeeper, and Razzaq have also advanced their causes considerably over the past seven weeks.

The one big disappointment, however, as it was for the South Africans when they toured last year, was the lack of a representative match against England A. "When England came to Pakistan, they played three Tests and three one-dayers. It would have been good to have done the same here because, although it was a great experience, playing the counties does not motivate the players to produce something special." Unfortunately, England A look destined to play all their cricket abroad.

Australia may select new one-day captain

AUSTRALIA'S Test cricket captain should no longer be guaranteed the job of leading the limited-overs side, Trevor Hohns, the chairman of selectors, said yesterday.

Hohns, who heads a five-man selection panel, is seeking a change of policy to give him authority to pick a specialist captain, if necessary, for one-day matches. "We would like the freedom to pick a team for each specific type of game and that includes the captain," Hohns said in Brisbane. "Limited-overs cricket and Test cricket are now many miles apart

and some players play one-day cricket better than others."

Mark Taylor has led Australia in the Test series and the limited-overs internationals on the Ashes tour in England. Australia have retained the Ashes in the six-Test series against England, but lost the limited-overs series.

Taylor struggled for form as an opener earlier in the tour, prompting calls for his sacking, but he has hinted he will stay on as captain if he receives the selectors' backing.

Centurians resist Yorkshire attack

By JOHN THICKNESSE

PORTSMOUTH (final day of four): Hampshire (8pts) drew with Yorkshire (11)

YORKSHIRE were left to regret wasting the steamy, swing-bowling conditions of Sunday when the United Services pitch reverted to type in favour of the batsmen yesterday, enabling Hampshire to deprive them of the win that would have lifted them to fourth place in the table.

Hampshire's saviours were Giles White, whose 145 was his maiden championship hundred, and John Stephenson, the captain, whose 114 was his own first in that sphere since 1995 — and amazingly higher than his previous best in the competition this year.

Brought together by the loss of Keach at 202 for four, when Hampshire were still 18 away from clearing off their deficit, their stand of 173 in 155 minutes deserved to make the match safe and would normally have done so.

Yesterday that was not quite the case, however. There were still 53 overs in the day when White succumbed to the second new ball and, in the next 12, three more wickets fell, Stephenson's among them.

Thanks to Gavin Hamilton's first five-wicket haul for Yorkshire, which trimmed Hampshire to 410 for eight, the visitors had an unexpected sniff of a victory. In Udal, though, Hampshire had the man for the repair job. Batting with the aplomb of a No 3, he took the game beyond Yorkshire's reach by scoring 37, an innings that contained an off-drive that ranked with any stroke throughout the match.

Until yesterday, Stephenson had scored only 385 championship runs in 17 innings and, hit on the toe in the over he came in, he had to survive a strident leg-before appeal before escaping his pair. Searching for his form, he took half-an-hour to score his first nine runs.

Relief came in the form of Vaughan's off breaks. Having cracked a long-hop over square-leg in the spinner's first over, Stephenson helped himself to 20 off his second with two perfectly-struck straight sixes and two fours.

Weighing into Stemp, the slow left-hander, he added three more sixes, completing his hundred off 124 balls. He produced a bad stroke to get out, dragging Hamilton into the stumps off the edge of a crooked bat, but might have done enough to give his season relevance.

White's 145 should have been a turning point for him as well. With nothing but a draw to play for, he batted chancelously on two hot days for 338 minutes, hitting 21 fours.

James enhances chances but Glamorgan slip up

By PAT GIBSON

WORCESTER (final day of four): Worcestershire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (6) by 54 runs

STEVE JAMES did his prospects of playing for England in the West Indies this winter no harm at all yesterday by scoring his fifth county championship century of the summer in front of David Graveney, the chairman of selectors. Not even that, however, was enough to enhance a cause much closer to Welsh hearts.

Glamorgan are desperate to win the championship for the first time since 1969 and only the second time in their history, but a victory target of 374, seven more than they have ever made to win a match, proved beyond them. In the end, they were all out for 319 with 4.3 overs remaining and instead of Glamorgan going back to the top of the table, Worcestershire, more improbably, moved into fourth place.

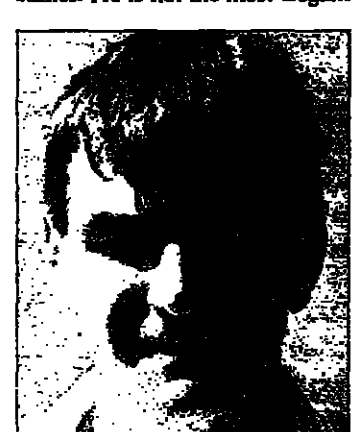
Whether they can sustain a realistic challenge remains to be seen, but one had to admire the way Tom Moody, their Australian captain, got the best out of his seemingly modest resources in this absorbing match, which was set up nicely when Worcestershire began the final day 341 runs ahead with three wickets in hand.

Philip Weston had added only eight to his overnight 106 when the

deserving Croft had him caught off a top-edged sweep, but a bad miss by Shaw cost Glamorgan 14 runs, which could have been crucial, before the innings folded.

Glamorgan had a minimum of 81 overs to get their runs and the target, stiff as it was on a fourth day pitch, did not seem beyond them when James and Morris, the most prolific opening pair in the country, were putting on 115 in 30 overs.

Graveney, who had a wasted journey on the first day, when they did not get to the crease, must have been impressed, particularly with James. He is not the most elegant



James: tour prospect

of batsmen and has the reputation of being a pragmatic accumulator of runs, but now he unveiled a pleasing array of strokes as he went past fifty for the fourteenth time in 20 innings this season.

It was then that Glamorgan suffered their first big setback. James drilled Hick to extra cover and called for a sharp single only to discover that Morris could not get to the other end in time to beat Solanki's pick up and throw.

Worse was to follow. Dale had already been brilliantly taken at slip by Lampitt off Moody's off-spin when Haynes struck the blows that settled the match. First, he had Powell caught at slip; then, he surprised Maynard, who had batted sublimely for 161 not out in the first innings, with a delivery that lifted to have him caught behind first ball.

Croft, who must appear before an England and Wales Cricket Board disciplinary panel with his Essex adversary, Mark Ilett, tonight, helped James put on 78 for the fifth wicket, but all hope was gone for Glamorgan when James, having raced to his hundred with three fours off four balls from Moody, called Leatherdale to square leg.

All that remained was the defiance of Waqar, who thrashed two sixes and six fours in an unbeaten 44 before he ran out of partners.

Notts tied down in spite of Dowman

By IVO TENNANT

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (8pts) drew with Somerset (7)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE'S bold attempt to score 320 off a minimum of 76 overs narrowly foundered yesterday. Given the ideal start by Matthew Dowman, who made 124, they kept going, creditably, until their last pair, Wayne Noon and Andy Oram, were at the crease. Needing 15 runs to win, they fell back on defence in the final over.

The joy was that in no sense was this a contrived finish. This was Dowman's third century of the season. Pollard, who has recovered from injury, will have a job to regain his place now. Dowman faced, in all, 188 balls and struck 18 fours.

Alas for him, other than a half-century from Astle, there was insufficient support. Johnson and Metcalfe went cheaply and, although Noon and Azaal brought the target down to 17 off two overs, the necessary runs had to be made against Caddick and Mushtaq Ahmed.

At the start of the last hour, Nottinghamshire needed 93, which was asking a lot. They did, though, have eight wickets intact. The captain soon went, looking to make room to cut Mushtaq and Dowman, who had made a decent

score for the fourth match in succession, lost his leg stump in Rose's next over.

In the following over, the fifth of the last 16, Tolley injudiciously opted to reverse sweep and was held at point.

After that, there were not enough stonemasons, or even sloggers, for Nottinghamshire to reach their target. On a pitch which still had some life in it for the medium pacers, Bowler had delayed his declaration. Trescottick, unbeaten with 70 overnight, finished with 81 including eight fours, and Turner and Rose thumped the ball around merrily at the end of Somerset's innings.

Nottinghamshire are to have a further attempt at luring the Australia leg spinner, Shane Warne, to Trent Bridge. They are prepared to pay him a six-figure sum next season and to give him the chance of making more money from commercial opportunities. For example, Peter Wright, the managing director of Gunn and Moore, the renowned bat manufacturers, sits on Nottinghamshire's committee.

They are all too aware, though, that there is increasing pressure on Warne to remain at home and conserve his energies for Australia's forthcoming series. Alan Border, for one, feels a period of rest is necessary.

SWIMMING: P
Smith

Strolling players plot to propel Italy on to the world stage

Ivo Tennant on the learning curve that led one of cricket's lesser lights to the playing fields of Stratford-upon-Avon

Durham XI containing a sprinkling of players with first-team experience.

Results, though, are hardly the point of the tour, for this 16-man party of labourers, students, a janitor, an accountant and somebody who is something in television is in England to learn. "We know we are a bad team and do not mind saying so," Dr Simone Gambino, chairman of Federazione Cricket Italiana, admitted.

They are, though, improving. The International Cricket Council (ICC), whose chief executive, David Richards, has visited Italy of late, has conferred associate membership upon them. Expatriates

are playing a less significant part than in the past and Englishmen are being phased out altogether. Of this touring party, their ages ranging from 15 to 38, 11 are Italians, four Sri Lankans and one, Akhlaq Qureshi, a Pakistani who has played first-class cricket for United Bank. The captain, Kamal Kariyawasam, is a Sri Lankan who has lived in Italy for the past 18 years.

"Now we have proper cricketers and the sport has government recognition," Gambino said. A 39-year-old historian who speaks perfect English, he has been the leading figure in the Italian game since the days when he confounded opponents by

opening the bowling off two paces. Their cricket has come on considerably since then. Although Italy did not win a match in the ICC Trophy tournament in the spring, they did bowl out Scotland. Gambino is not entirely jesting when he talks about their participation "in the tenth World Cup from now".

At Stratford-upon-Avon, fringed with weeping willows and gawping tourists, Italy could not withstand a Midlands Conference XI, in spite of an unbeaten 135 by Hemantha Jayasena, who batted throughout the innings. Italy are of commensurate standard now to Argentina, East and West Africa, Gibraltar and Israel and will participate in the European championship in Holland next year, but they find organising matches against club sides a more straightforward affair. On the



The blue-eyed boys of Italian cricket brought a splash of colour to the English game

morning of one scheduled match, they discovered that their opponents, Israel, had vanished during the night for security reasons. In 1990, Italy were expelled from the European Cricketer Cup after

Gambino objected to the rules for qualification. There are only 400 registered cricketers in Italy and yet the ICC has been supportive of the Federazione. "It gives us £20,000 a year and

pays our costs for taking part in the Trophy," Gambino said.

With water short in the summer months, all the pitches in Italy are artificial. Martin Crowe, the former New

Zealand batsman, has provided help on a part-time basis and Italy now have a coach for five months of the year. Doug Ferguson is a one-time league professional from Durham, who recommended Geoff Cook and Peter Willey, among others, to Northamptonshire. "If we win two matches on this tour, we will be doing well," he said.

Satellite television has introduced the young and old alike to cricket, although how suited the Latin temperament is to the game is another matter. "Matches in our Italian championship can become rough," Gambino said. "Nations like ours who are bad at cricket have no present — we only have a future. No country outside those who play Test matches has undertaken so many tours in recent years. We are not ashamed to say we are not good cricketers. We want to learn."

Kovacs

CRICKET

Spin doctors
conjure
collapse of
Sussex

By SIMON WILDE

HOVE (final day of four):
Gloucestershire (23pts) beat
Sussex (7) by 166 runs

THE capture of Mark Robinson's wicket is not normally cause for wild celebrations, but it was yesterday. No sooner had Richard Davis bowled this most leopine of county batsmen than he was jumped on by his Gloucestershire teammates as they rejoiced in a resounding defeat of Sussex that puts them back on top of the Britannia Assurance county championship table.

They will stay there for a few days at least, but sit out the next round of matches before returning to action —

	P	W	L	D	R	P	PP
Gloucestershire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Warwickshire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Surrey	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
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Warwickshire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
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Gloucestershire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Warwickshire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Surrey	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Gloucestershire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Warwickshire	10	12	6	2	28	41	171
Surrey	10	12	6	2	28	41	171

with Shaun Young back in tow — against Nottinghamshire at Bristol tomorrow week. They then complete their programme with matches against Kent, possibly their most dangerous rivals, Warwickshire and Lancashire.

Two aspects of play yesterday must have surprised them. One was the manner in which Sussex finally capitulated, because they had previously fought hard, obliging Gloucestershire to bat on for 40 minutes in the morning and set them an unlikely target of 328.

From the point that Toby Peirce and Neil Taylor were separated, having shared a second-wicket stand worth 107, until Robinson was out, Sussex lost nine wickets in a mere 96 minutes for the addition of 52 runs. They were all but a minute before the start of the final hour.

But the other unexpected feature was the success of the two Gloucestershire spinners, Martyn Bell and Richard Davis, who had contributed little to the earlier stages of their championship campaign. To the challenge set them here, they rose magnificently. Bell took five for 66 and Davis four for 35 — giving him match figures of eight for 70 — and both appeared to thrive on the work they were given here, which far exceeded what had been asked of them in any earlier match this season. Beforehand, Davis had taken three championship wickets at 62 apiece. Bell ten at the same cost.

In a sense, they did only what they are employed to do, but spinners' fingers need to get warm and their hearts require encouragement.

They lacked for neither once Alleyn had brought them together at the first opportunity, which was immediately after lunch. Ball having left the field to seek treatment for a blow on the arm.

Both were superbly supported by their close fielders, who pounced seven of the eight chances offered. Earlier, Bell had first held Rao at slip in Lewis's first over; three more catches were then held in the slips and two each at short leg and silly point, most of them inches off the ground, though only the first and last, to account for Peirce and Edwards' few from strokes aggressive in intent.

For all Gloucestershire's vigour, it was an afternoon that reflected badly on Sussex. With two reasonably crafted half-centuries, Peirce, the left-hander, showed promise in this game but there was little encouragement to be had from the rest of the Sussex young brigade.

Peirce and Taylor survived for 25 hours through a sensible mix of defence and enterprise — when they were together, a post-tea run-chase was not out of the question — but once they were gone, there was too much timid pushing and prodding from players who showed little evidence that they knew how to play spin. For those who have watched Sussex bat before this season, it was an all too familiar story.



The batting promise of Peirce, who claimed half-centuries in each innings, was not enough to halt Gloucestershire

Pressure back on Ramprakash

Mark Ramprakash is such a talented batsman and so immersed in the game that he has been his life that one wishes him all that he wishes for himself. He makes big scores with unfailing ease for Middlesex and the captaincy that the club conferred on him two months ago suggests that he is finally at peace with himself. Why, then, does one fear for him?

In the first place, the facts do him few favours and, although only pedants rely exclusively on facts, they provide a good place from which to start. In 19 Tests, between 1991 and 1995, Ramprakash has failed to make a hundred and he has passed fifty only twice in 33 innings, on both occasions against Australia.

Four summers ago, he was summoned across Vauxhall Bridge at the last minute from Lord's, where Middlesex were playing Northamptonshire, to play at the Oval after Graham Thorpe broke a thumb knocking up in the nets. He made 64 in the second innings as England won. In Perth 18 months later, when he joined the party as a late replacement, he made 72 in an overwhelming defeat.

On the first occasion, Australia had won the series; at Perth, England were playing for a share of it after the Ashes had gone. Perhaps that reveals something about the man's character. With no time to fret about his performance, or how the result could affect the outcome of the series, he could bat freely, and did.

Yet Test cricket is not about making runs when the pressure is off, which leads directly to the second point. Ramprakash has never indicated that his temperament is attuned to the demands, more mental than anything, of mastering the best bowlers in the world. Michael Atherton cannot be wrong when he says: "Ramps has never done it when it has mattered." His Test average, around 16, is inferior to Paul Reiffel's and only a shade better than Shane Warne's.

One can assume, therefore, that Atherton did not lobby for his inclusion at the Oval, where England conclude their disappointing summer. This selection bears the stamp of Mike Gatting, Ramprakash's former county captain, who endured seven torrid years of self-doubt before he proved himself worthy of a Test place and, having proved it, went on two years later to lead England to victory in Australia.

There is now fevered talk in some excitable quarters — well, it has been inordinately hot — of Ramprakash taking over the reins from Atherton, which does the man no service at all. Gatting, for all those early failures, consistently passed fifty in Tests and rarely looked out of place. The younger Ramprakash was so introspective that he made Hamlet resemble a man of restless impulse.

An English Test crowd last saw him at Lord's two years ago, against West Indies, when he bagged a pair and took so long to leave the crease that the umpires were about to send for the bailiffs. He still got the nod that winter in South Africa before another duck, in "Atherton's match" at Johannesburg, saw him return to the ranks.

MICHAEL HENDERSON



Line and Length

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At the start of that tour, Raymond Illingworth, the team manager, spoke of how the selectors considered him the best man to bat first wicket down and how they were "desperate" for him to succeed. How much additional pressure those comments placed on this sensitive man is hard to gauge, but it didn't prove the making of him. He froze in the Tests, was overlooked for the rest of the tour out of pity and returned to England as a wounded bird.

That he remains sensitive to the doubts of others is evident. On Sunday, when television cameras went to Lord's in the hope of recording a few words with him, Ramprakash chose to keep his own counsel. He is entitled to do so, of course, but the pressure will not evaporate simply because he does not want to talk about it.

No matter how many runs he has made this season, no matter how beautifully he has made them, England have still taken a risk in recalling him. Everybody is rooting for "Ramps" because he has a rare gift and it is always galling to see a gifted person fail to do himself justice.

Good intentions, however, are never enough and there is nothing anybody else can do for him. When he returns to the team on Thursday, he is playing with fire. And fire burns.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Today's Challenge Series

Kent v Australians
CANTERBURY (final day of four):
Australians beat Kent by 10 wickets.
Kent: First innings 201 (M V Parnell 67, S. Lee 48, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43).

Second innings:
T. S. Turner 100, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43.

Third innings:
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Fifth innings:
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Sixth innings:
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Seventh innings:
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Eighth innings:
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Ninth innings:
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Tenth innings:
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Eleventh innings:
T. S. Turner 100, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43.

Twelfth innings:
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Thirteenth innings:
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Fourteenth innings:
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Fifteenth innings:
T. S. Turner 100, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43.

Sussex v Gloucestershire

HOVE (final day of four):
Gloucestershire beat Sussex by 166 runs.
Gloucestershire: First innings 328 (M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43, M. S. Kasprowicz 43, S. Lee 43).

Second innings:
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Yesterday's Scoreboards

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TENNIS

Rusedski
reaches
new peak

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

John Hopkins, golf correspondent, salutes a true gentleman

Noble Love follows in ways of father

Davis Love III is one of the noblemen of American golf. He has the bearing, breeding and manners appropriate to professional golf's leading families and there was great celebration on Sunday evening, both at the manner of his victory in the US PGA Championship and that it was achieved at Winged Foot.

Love, who is 33, is tall, pallid and gangly. He has the slightly awkward manner that extremely polite people have. You feel that even if his house was on fire, he would have difficulty in disengaging himself from a conversation for fear of appearing brusque.

Love lives his life through his father. Davis Love Jr, a touring professional who led several major championships without winning any before becoming a renowned teaching professional, Davis Love Jr brought his son up to be a golfer in a way that was not unlike Earl Woods and Tiger years later. "Follow your dreams. Enjoy the trip," Love told his son.

For years, Davis did just that. He was a good ice hockey player and a very good golfer and, when he was ten, he went to the US PGA Championship with his father. Love's rounds were 82 and 74 and he did not survive to the last two days.

Young Davis had seen enough. He was dazzled by the players that he was introduced to, such as Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino and Arnold Palmer, and by what he saw and heard. "Man, this is the life," he would write later in his autobiography. "All the stars were there and they knew him. After that, I started playing more."

He had a natural talent. He was scoring in the 90s at the age of ten. By 11 it was in the

80s and by 12 in the 70s. At 13, he decided that he wanted to turn professional. "How hard are you prepared to work?" his father asked him. When he turned pro, his father said: "Do what Tom Kite does." For four days last week, Love played superb golf and was rewarded both with a place on Kite's team in the Ryder Cup next month and victory in his first major championship.

He had come close before — in the 1995 Masters, one stroke behind Ben Crenshaw, and in the 1996 US Open, one stroke behind Steve Jones after threeputting the 72nd green. This made it all the sweeter. So did the sight of the rainbow as he played the 72nd hole at Winged Foot. When he won the Players' Championship in 1992, a rainbow appeared on the final hole as well.

Mark Love, his brother, was the first to congratulate him. Mark is also his caddy and has been for eight years. One of the next to embrace the tall American was Pinta Love, his mother. In fact, only one person was missing, but that was the person Davis Love III would have wanted to see him win most of all — his father.

Davis Love Jr had been an assistant at Winged Foot Golf Club, one of many talented young men who were given their final polishing by Claude Harman, the legendary head pro at the club. After retiring from competitive play, Love became a successful teacher and it was while flying to a teaching school in 1988 that he was killed in an air crash. The loss his son felt was enormous. He had lost a dominant father, a friend and his teacher.

His father had numerous drills for young Davis to follow. One was to make him hit balls 100 yards, then 120 yards and then 150 yards with a driver. This way, Davis



Love prepares to fling his cap joyfully after securing his victory at Winged Foot

learnt about rhythm and control. "Everyone on tour has some story to tell about his father," Love said. "The difference with me was that my father was also my teacher."

On Sunday, Love was asked what his father would have said to him about winning the US PGA. "He would have said I won it because it was my

time and I was overdue," Love said, "but he was not one to sit back and rest. He loved the sport. He would want me to get back to work."

Love will get back to work in the Ryder Cup next month, his third appearance in the competition. Twice he has beaten Costantino Rocca in the singles in 1993 after being one done with three holes to play.

After losing his lead, Rocca broke down in tears and retired to the clubhouse. Love was being interviewed when he asked: "Where's Costantino?" Upon being told what had happened, Love, quietly but courteously, said: "I'm sorry, I must go and see Costantino." And one of the game's gentlemen went off to console his opponent.

FINAL SCORES FROM WINGED FOOT

United States unless stated	68, 73, 71, S Maruyama (Japan) 68, 70, 74, 72
296: D Love III 68, 71, 66, 68, 274; J Leonard 68, 70, 65, 71, 274; J Haggart 69, 68, 65, 69, 271; L Janzen 69, 67, 74, 70, 71, 72; D Pooley 72, 74, 70, 70, 70; R Black 70, 69, 71, 70, 71, 70; L Westwood (GB) 74, 68, 71, 72; P Gosselin 70, 72, 71, 72; P Stewart 70, 70, 72, 74; P Azinger 68, 73, 74, 74; T Woods 70, 70, 71, 75, 75; P Mickelson 69, 69, 75, 75; F Hovland (Nor) 72, 73, 67, 74; F Couples 71, 67, 73, 75, 287; S Jones 69, 73, 75, 70; D Ogora 74, 72, 71, 70; I Garcia (Spain) 71, 75, 71; E Romero (Arg) 71, 72, 72, 72	
288: T Egan (Ire) 72, 68, 77, 71; J Patek (GB) 70, 70, 71, 71; S Tomlin (GB) 74, 72, 70, 72; S Sorenstam (USA) 72, 70, 74, 289; L Roberts 70, 74, 69; R Almerly (Aus) 67, 72, 74, 71; S Herzig 74, 68, 75, 72; C Perry 68, 71, 73, 77, 290; E Els (Aus) 70, 76, 74, 70; 8	
291: L Wadkins 72, 72, 77, 70, 70; S Lowery 72, 69, 73, 71; L Mize 71, 73, 73, 74, 292; P Furr 71, 74, 77, 70; C Cochrane 72, 73, 72, 75; Lee Haver 70, 71, 75, 75; R Goosen (SA) 72, 70, 74, 75; S Appleby (Aus) 75, 70, 69, 70; J Hahn 69, 75, 70, 293; P Jacobson 74, 72, 75, 72; P Skramkowski 68, 71, 77, 72; P J Johansson (Swe) 73, 69, 73, 78	
294: C Franco (Por) 69, 74, 76, 75, 295; M Beasley 70, 69, 73, 73, 296; J Nelen 76, 70, 75, 73; V Klemke (Aust) 72, 73, 74, 74; C Rocca (I) 69, 69, 70, 76; J Jordan 76, 70, 75, 76; K Sutherland 73, 73, 78	

Webb-site wonder for Haller

Patricia Davies on how Internet may lift British Open champion to No 1 spot



Webb: avoids attention

Kevin Haller was just settling down to enjoy the highlights of the Westatix Women's British Open Championship at home in Queensland yesterday morning when the telephone rang for the umpteenth time. It was Karrie Webb, the champion herself, calling to give Haller, her coach, a blow-by-blow account of the proceedings. "She gave me a pretty good

assessment," Haller, who watched the action later, said. "It was an absolutely superb performance."

Ayr, Webb's home town (population 9,000-ish), is a long way from most places, particularly Sunningdale, and two accidents, one geographical, the other crippling, dictate that Haller's approach to coaching is not as hands-on as he would like. "It's frustrating," Haller, who has been in a wheelchair since an accident seven years ago, said. "My movement is very restricted and, when I'm teaching, I can't show the kids what to do. I just have to explain it all."

He confessed that the brain "and the mouth" worked overtime in compensation and, if Webb is the prime example, Haller's methods could not be sounder. Players and television analysts drool over her action.

"It's a natural golf swing and there are not a lot of things that can go wrong with it," Haller, who has coached Webb since she started playing as a child, said. "I have a look at her at the end of the year when she comes back home, but it's a long way between drinks."

They talk a lot on the

telephone, but Haller is hoping that some modern technological magic will help him keep a closer eye on his star pupil. Someone has devised a programme that will enable Webb to video her swing wherever she happens to be in the world and download it via

the Internet to Ayr. "I'll be able to view her swing and pick it up," Haller said, "and give her advice on the world-wide Web in more ways than one."

Haller is not a professional, but he was a three-handicap in his younger days. His parents had a newsagents' store and he used to devour every golf publication that passed through it, absorbing the instruction articles.

Now he spends a lot of time working with the juniors — there are about 80, in a club with just over 200 members — and they have their very own role model in the girl from Ayr who is soaring to new heights. Webb is still only 22, but, after winning her first British Open title 1995, her rookie year in Europe, she won four times in the United States last year and was No 1 on the money-list, the first woman to win more than \$1 million in one season.

This season, in 19 events, she has won twice, been in the top three eight times (and in the top ten 16 times) and is already 128 under par. She wants to be the best player in the world (she is currently ranked No 2, behind Annika Sorenstam) and could be the Nancy Lopez of the Nineties, except that she does not revel in the attention. Webb prefers to keep her personality tucked under her baseball cap, shielded by her dark glasses.

Burhill make amends for Briggs family

AUDREY BRIGGS and her son, Laurie, 14, will be back in the Family Fourmores, at Burhill, Surrey, today a year after they were controversially barred from the event.

Dick Richards, the former Burhill secretary, banned them after a report that Brazilian-born Laurie was adopted. Richards claimed the event was for blood relations only. The report, however, proved untrue and Richards was forced to resign as a result of the adverse publicity. Burhill officials subsequently apologised to the family, from the Royal Liverpool club, and invited them back this year. They face the Nugeys, of Headhead, in the first round.

Merchant found in drink

Cadfael
ITV, 8.30pm

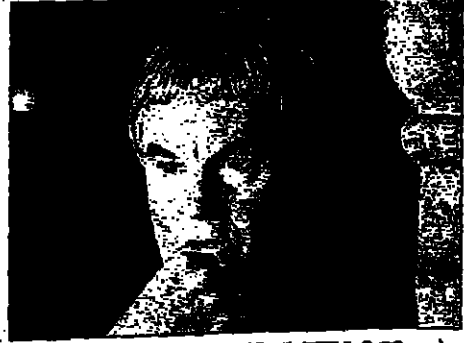
St Peter's Fair arrives in Shrewsbury, setting up tensions between the visiting merchants and the local shopkeepers who resent having to close for the duration. When Thomas of Bristol, a wine merchant, is found floating in the Severn, the forces of law and order, as they do to this day, go for the obvious suspect. But connoisseurs of detective stories, even ones set in the 12th century, will instinctively know that the cobbler's son is not the murderer. They may also have a shrewd idea who is, though the solution carefully extracted by Derek Jacobi's monk-cum-detective is so tangled and clever that only a genius could spot it. This is another very polished adaptation, balancing plot and character in just the right measure and brilliantly turning a corner of present-day Hungary into medieval England.

Hungerford Ten Years On
BBC2, 9.30pm

As anniversaries go, Hungerford is one of the bleakest. Though it is said to be a gripping, even in front of television cameras, is a way of coming to terms with tragedy, Lucy Jagoe's film is inevitably painful but she handles a difficult subject with tact. We are assured that all the contributions were freely made. The idea for the documentary came from Tony Hill, whose daughter Sandra was one of 16 people killed by the gunman Michael Ryan. Hill is one of the main witnesses. We hear, too, from Trevor Wainwright, the policeman who came in on his day off to be told that his father had been shot dead, and from the family of Susan Godfrey, a mother of two and the first to die. Surprisingly, little anger is directed at Ryan. Instead there is an irrational feeling of guilt at not being able to do more to stop him.

Plane Crazy
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Whether he had a television series in mind is not revealed but Bob Cringely's decision to design, build and fly a plane in 30 days is a heaven-sent subject. A writer who runs two computer businesses from Silicon Valley in California, Cringely has built planes before but not in such a



Derek Jacobi as Cadfael (ITV, 8.30pm)

short time. His friends think he is mad. So does his girlfriend. He takes his blueprint to an expert who rejects it in almost every detail. Cringely, though, is a resilient character, even if he has been in therapy for 15 years. With a budget of only \$15,000 he has to spend wisely, which means getting his engine from a car scrapyard. He sets about building the fibreglass body in his garage. But he soon falls behind schedule and there are plenty of hints of disasters yet to come.

Rock Cuts: The Artist Formerly Known as Captain Beefheart
BBC2, 11.15pm

Don Van Vliet, alias Captain Beefheart, may not be a name to conjure with these days. But for John Peel, not a bad judge, he was "the most important figure to have emerged from the rock era of the 1960s and 1970s". Peel goes even further, calling him "possibly rock's only genius". A musician with no formal training, Captain Beefheart was a maverick of volatile temperament whose strange and provocative compositions mixed rock, blues and free jazz with a touch of Dada. He is recalled by admirers such as the guitarist and a former collaborator, Ry Cooder, and Marc Rosen, creator of *The Simpsons*, who says he only met him once, in 1970, when he was in the hospital. He gave up music to concentrate on painting and in recent years, suffering from long-term illness, he has become a recluse. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Tales from the Back of Beyond
Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Two distinct strands have opened up in broadcast travel programmes over the past decade. There has been a continuation, without a loss of popularity, of the old-style type, which is aimed mostly at families. Much more interesting, and represented by this new series, is the programme that is more to do with travel than holidaying, and pretty venacious travelling at that. Today four young explorers describe their attempt to rendezvous with wild camels in China's Taklimakan Desert, but it is the other half of the programme, the desert and the camels, that really bring the programme to life. There is an inversion of stereotyping, with the two boys anxious to give up the battle and the girls, particularly Belinda, determined to press on.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 8.00 Simon Mayo 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow. Live from Plymouth 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45 Jo Whiteley 1.00pm Nelly 2.00pm Newsbeat 2.15pm Newsbeat 2.30pm Evening Session with Steve Lamacq 3.30pm Digital Update 4.00pm John Peel 10.30pm Mary Anne Hobbs 11.00pm Dave Navarro 4.00pm John Peel

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30am Sarah Kennedy 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05pm Jimmy Young 7.00pm Carl Davis 8.00pm Nigel Ogden 9.00pm Jimmy Young 11.00pm Newsbeat 11.15pm Newsbeat 11.30pm Newsbeat 11.45pm Newsbeat 11.55pm Newsbeat 12.00pm Newsbeat 12.15pm Newsbeat 12.30pm Newsbeat 12.45pm Newsbeat 12.55pm Newsbeat 1.00pm Newsbeat 1.15pm Newsbeat 1.30pm Newsbeat 1.45pm Newsbeat 1.55pm Newsbeat 2.00pm Newsbeat 2.15pm Newsbeat 2.30pm Newsbeat 2.45pm Newsbeat 2.55pm Newsbeat 3.00pm Newsbeat 3.15pm Newsbeat 3.30pm Newsbeat 3.45pm Newsbeat 3.55pm Newsbeat 4.00pm Newsbeat 4.15pm Newsbeat 4.30pm Newsbeat 4.45pm Newsbeat 4.55pm Newsbeat 5.00pm Newsbeat 5.15pm Newsbeat 5.30pm Newsbeat 5.45pm Newsbeat 5.55pm Newsbeat 6.00pm Newsbeat 6.15pm Newsbeat 6.30pm Newsbeat 6.45pm Newsbeat 6.55pm Newsbeat 7.00pm Newsbeat 7.15pm Newsbeat 7.30pm Newsbeat 7.45pm Newsbeat 7.55pm Newsbeat 8.00pm Newsbeat 8.15pm Newsbeat 8.30pm Newsbeat 8.45pm Newsbeat 8.55pm 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The massed masochists of the Midlands

Get this. Every year, on the last, icest Sunday in January, when the flattened cowpats are frozen so hard you could throw them like discs, 2,000 men and women gather in a field near Wolverhampton to compete in a remarkable event — a grueling cross-country race-cum-gauntlet-course in which they have to run for miles, crawl under barbed wire, swim underwater through mud, climb rock faces, walk across tightropes and swim through a tunnel of freezing water. What makes it remarkable is not the sadistic design of the obstacle course, but that nobody has forced any of these people to do all these preposterous things. It's like an *It's a Knockout* tournament that some prankster devised as a cruel joke to play on a bunch of over-trusting, plain-in-the-community patients.

Everybody gets away from the world in their own little way," Billy Wilson explained to us on *Tough*

Going, the second of Channel 4's *Start Stories* showcase for documentary film directors. Wilson, a former Coldstream Guard, doesn't actually take part in the race. He's the organiser.

A personal way of finding a path out of the wicked world, that's what it's about," Wilson's personal way seems to be exacting revenge for the pointlessly brutal assault courses he was forced to tackle during his Guards career by inflicting similar torture on the blameworthy people of Wolverhampton.

"I stand here and I can't believe people are doing it, you know, some of the things we tell them to do. They're like lemmings, they really are. I knew four or five years ago that if we built a great pit, or a mountain, or whatever, they would go over the edge of it, one after the other. The harder we push them, the more they love it, the more they come back. They

want the punishment," Wilson, grey-haired, and kinked out in his country gentleman's gear, dog by his side, looks as harmless as, say, Laurence Olivier in *Marathon Man*. But if they introduce a "dentist's chair" segment in the race, call the authorities.

Don't believe it's that bad? Listen to Wilson explaining the tunnel of freezing water: "The heat of the body rushes to the head and the head explodes into one mighty headache. They wonder what the devil's hit them. It's a concussion state." Perhaps the competitors don't feel any ill-effects from this abuse. Maybe it's a version of Czechoslovakia's version of the 22 competitors can't possibly be sensitive enough to feel normal pain: if they were that sensitive, they wouldn't have been crazy enough to enter in the first place. Ann Ward, one of the annual Wolverhampton wanderers, tells

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

"We all need things in our lives to stop it being flat. Nobody likes a flat life. Ward, a housewife and mother, is competing for the third year in a row. "It's that strange mix of pain and pleasure that makes it thrilling, really, because I think pain and pleasure together equal happiness. Not the sort of arithmetic they taught in my school. "Where do you get thrills these days? A real thrill that you can feel?" Putting it

another way, if you're planning to move to the Wolverhampton area and you're not the hardy type, bring hard drugs.

And what did Kate Hircok, a Boots shop assistant, think of her debut circuit? "It was an experience. Let's just leave it at that." You couldn't sum up Debbie Shuter's fine film any better, though she had sold her film to Wolverhampton's Chamber of Commerce: it could use it to entice Japanese manufacturers to Wolverhampton, on the ground that the local workforce seems to have much in common with the masochistic contestants on the Japanese game show *Endurance*.

If Billy Wilson was watching last night's *Preston Farrel* (BBC1), Wolverhampton would do well to prepare for a novel addition to next year's event: watermelon rugby. Mess rugby, with a watermelon for a ball, was the traditional after-

dinner entertainment at the Roker Bridge TA's annual regimental dinner. Of course, it won't be quite so messy in Billy Wilson's version because he'll probably take the precaution of freezing the melons as hard as cannonballs first.

Ally (Kate Garside), having just left her two-time husband, is already in a foul mood before arriving at the dinner to learn that Rundle (Keiran Flynn) — with whom she was planning to console herself — had arranged a job transfer to Cornwall, having convinced himself that Ally would never be his. Luckily, the abrasive Polson (David MacCreedy) was there to soothe up her venom. Ally makes sure that Polson gets more than his share of melon flesh in the face. But the chaos in the mess hall is nothing compared to the emotional chaos elsewhere as friendships and partnerships crumble with the

BBC1

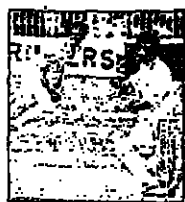
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (57/71)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (52/59)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (50/60)
- 9.20 Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (51/30)
- 9.50 Eddard (7) (50/32/7)
- 10.20 Put It to the Test (50/54/8)
- 10.45 *Carters' Caribbean* (7) (29/22/24)
- 11.00 News; Regional News (7) and weather (58/59/60)
- 11.05 *Don't South Fraser* is held hostage on a runaway train by a gang of homicidal terrorists (7) (24/30/64)
- 11.50 *Good Neighbours* (58/56/57)
- 12.00 News; Regional News (7) and weather (44/01/53)
- 12.05pm *Wipeout* (7) (59/77/79)
- 12.35 *Neighbours* (7) (19/25/67)
- 1.00 News (7) and weather (35/16)
- 1.30 Regional News (7) and weather (58/58/58)
- 1.40 *A Twist of the Knife* with Dick Van Dyke, Cynthia Geib and Stephen Caffrey. A female doctor's career is derailed by a mysterious new surgical technique. Directed by Jerry London (7) (49/15/48)
- 3.10 *Quincy* (18/66/16)
- 4.00 *Pooley* (28/17/71) 4.10 *Rugrats* (70/74/23) 4.35 *Pirates* (24/17/22) 5.00 *Newsround* (7) (24/05/13) 5.10 *Byker Grove* (7) (33/41/28)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (23/15/5)
- 6.00 News (7) and weather (30/8)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (7) (25/8)
- 7.00 *Holidays On Ice* for things to do during the summer, including the pre-war pleasure beach at Le Touquet, Canadian-style canoeing in Scotland, Cornwall's monkey colony and the Silverstone motor racing circuit (7) (34/32)
- 7.30 *EastEnders* Bianca tries to settle Tanya's nerves by taking her to a romantic holiday in Paris (7) (24/2)
- 8.00 *Wildlife on One: The Bees* — Record Breakers David Attenborough explores an evolutionary success story. Bees have adopted a variety of survival strategies and make up a seventh of the animal and insect population of Britain (7) (21/8)
- 8.30 *Keeping Up Appearances* Hyacinth discovers a passionate urge to feed her talents to the floor arts (7) (59/67)
- 9.00 News; Regional News (7) and weather (55/57)
- 9.30 *Jobs for the Girls* Pauline and Linda plan a Party Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson organise a star-studded ball in aid of the Duchess of York's charity Children in Crisis (7) (32/08/8)
- 10.30 *The X-Files: Soft Light* Scully and Mulder investigate the disappearance of a videotape company executive, with a side order of the victim's door the only lead (7) (50/15/5)
- 11.15 *Sticky Fingers* (19/8) with Helen Slater, Melanie Mayron and Eileen Brennan. Two struggling musicians go on a spending spree with money entrusted to them by a notorious drug dealer. Directed by Colin Adams (58/58/7)
- 12.40am-12.45am *Weather* (39/14/72)

Video Plus and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to automatically record a programme. To use the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record, Videoplus+ (V), Pluscode (P) and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (51/87) 6.00 *Page and Katie Lee* (72/25) 10.00 *Another World* (52/48) 11.00 *Days of Our Lives* (58/58) 12.00 *Open House* (54/32) 1.00pm *Cartoon* (54/32) 2.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 3.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 4.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 5.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 6.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 7.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 8.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 9.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 10.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 11.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 12.00 *Cartoon* (54/32) 1.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 2.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 3.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 4.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 5.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 6.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 7.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 8.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 9.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 10.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 11.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 12.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 1.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 2.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 3.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 4.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 5.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 6.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 7.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 8.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 9.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 10.00am *Cartoon* (54/32) 11.00am 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CRICKET 40-41

Australia spoils for choice in run up to Oval Test match

SPORT

TUESDAY AUGUST 19 1997

SWIMMING 41

Popov refuses to tread water on return to action



McGeechan spurns chance to become England coach



McGeechan: new plans

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IAN MCGEECHAN yesterday terminated the speculation surrounding the position of coach to the England rugby union team. McGeechan, the Scot who masterminded the series win by the British Isles in South Africa in June and July, withdrew his candidature and is likely now to try to combine his work at Northampton with a role as consultant to the Scottish Rugby Union.

Though in some ways this clears the air, in others it leaves an unhealthy miasma — through no fault of McGeechan's — because of the doubts cast upon the credentials

of the present coach, Jack Rowell, and his assistants, Mike Slemmon and Les Cusworth. However hard the Rugby Football Union's national playing committee may have searched for an alternative, the truth is that there is none to Rowell at present and even that may be denied England if Rowell adheres to a commitment previously given to his business associates.

McGeechan has been linked with a possible move to England since his association with Fran Cotton in South Africa with the Lions. Cotton, who managed that touring party, has since moved into a position with the RFU which gives him a dominant role over playing policy, while members of

the national playing committee, chaired by Bill Beaumont, believe that a full-time England coach is now necessary.

"It has to be a full-time job if you are realistic about wanting to win the World Cup in 1999," one member of the committee said this week. That is the problem with Rowell, whose varied business interests form an important part of his life: given the choice of business or rugby, Rowell will always choose the former even though he wants to finish the job he has started by taking the present England squad through to 1999.

It must be considered a fault of the RFU's coaching structure that so few viable alternatives to Rowell

present themselves. Most of the best young coaches in England are contracted to clubs who, like Northampton with McGeechan, would require compensation before letting a prized asset go. Indeed the amount of compensation — said to be around £500,000 — that Northampton required must have been a big factor in McGeechan withdrawing from a role he would have enjoyed.

But over the years England A coaches have come and gone, few of them having the chance to put down a marker for the senior post. When Rowell succeeded Geoff Cooke as England manager in 1994 it was on the strength of his outstanding record at Bath; Dick

Best, then England coach, was summarily dismissed a few months later though, ironically, he remains one of the few coaches qualified for the England job who is not under contract. Harlequins having pulled the rug from under him last season.

Rowell's record is a worthy one: a grand slam, a championship, a triple crown, a shared series in South Africa and a World Cup semi-final place. If he has been criticised over selection, few court-tries escape the same structure and certainly not England before Rowell. If he has sometimes gone for what appears the "safe" option, that reflects merely a national tendency. But the events of the past few

months, as the RFU have sounded out various coaches including Graham Henry, who prepared the Auckland Blues team which has won the Super 12 for the past two years, have created a sour feeling among the England management. They believe that playing philosophies they have adopted, development strategies they have tried to put in place, their team's overall record have counted for nothing.

The national playing committee has looked at others — Richard Hill, of Gloucester, Clive Woodward and Andy Robinson, from Bath, Rob Smith, from Wasps — but none has the overall credentials needed.

Couples and Janzen complete team

Kite draws on reserves of experience

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MAMARONECK, NEW YORK

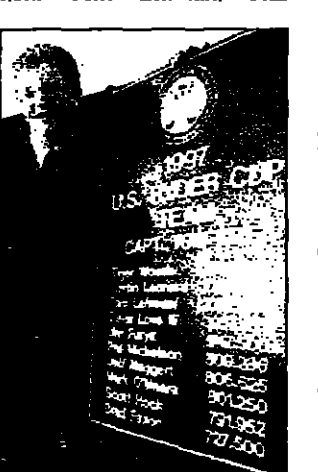
TOM KITE, the United States team captain in the forthcoming Ryder Cup, yesterday went for experience in major championships and Ryder Cups when he selected Fred Couples and Lee Janzen to complete his team to play Europe in Spain next month.

Up to that point, the ten men who had already qualified looked raw in terms of their experience of a Ryder Cup. From ten appearances in this biennial match, Nick Faldo had more experience than the ten Americans combined.

Couples and Janzen redress his obvious imbalance. Couples has played in the past four Ryder Cup teams and Janzen was a member of the victorious 1993 team at The Belfry. In all, the Americans have a total of 13 appearances in the Ryder Cup.

Kite's team looks to be one of the strongest selected by the United States in recent years. Seven of its members finished

in the top ten when the US PGA Championship concluded on Sunday. It is a blend of youth and experience. Tiger Woods, 21, Justin Leonard, 25, Jim Furyk, 27, and Scott Hoch, 41, are making their first appearance in the competition. Tom Lehman, Phil



Kite: decisions

Mickelson, Brad Faxon and Jeff Maggert competed in the 1995 team that was defeated by Europe at Oak Hill.

Davis Love III has played in the past two matches and Mark O'Meara appeared in 1985, 1989 and 1991. Couples, the 1992 Masters champion and Janzen, the 1993 US Open champion, will bring that hard edge of competitive experience to the team that contains three of the year's major championship winners — Woods, Leonard and Love.

Captains are supposed to have difficulty when selecting their teams and Kite was no exception. He had disturbed nights as he fretted about his thoughts and woke up Christy, his wife, with his habit of shouting names in his sleep.

He sought out the opinions of all those who had already qualified and those who were likely to qualify. Finally, he, Christy and Dennis Satyshur, the head professional at Caves Valley golf club near Baltimore, who is Kite's assistant, went out to dinner on Sunday night and ran over their thoughts one last time.

By then, Kite had had some help from the players. "I was looking for players to make statements, to tell me with shots that they wanted to make the team," he said. "Two of the men who had hitherto been on the fringes had just done that — Love by winning the US PGA, Maggert by finishing fourth and equalling the course record in the last round as he did not. Kite was impressed by both."

That left a baker's dozen names, including Kite's, for him to consider. The names included major championship winners such as Steve Jones, the 1996 US Open champion, Tom Watson, both a past Ryder Cup captain and player, Mark Brooks, the 1996 US PGA champion, Janzen and Couples, Corey Pavin, the 1995 US Open champion, Payne Stewart, the 1989 US PGA champion, and Hale Irwin, who currently competes on the senior tour in the United States. Other names that Kite considered included Tommy Tolles, David Duval and Paul Stankowski.

Six of the men that Kite consulted wanted him to pick himself. All year he has maintained that it was only opinion and not fact, but there could not be a playing captain. He changed his mind when he realised that he was not going to be able to qualify for his own team.

Couples is one of those gifted players with an ap-



Couples is keen to put his personal problems behind him in the Ryder Cup

proach to life that is as relaxed as his swing. Though he has had a difficult year during which he has been beset by problems concerning his father's health and within his own private life, he assured Kite that he was anxious to compete in the Ryder Cup.

Freddie has proven throughout the years that he is one of our very best," Kite said. "When Freddie wants to play, he's the best. My thoughts were that if you've got one of the best players in the game and he wants to be on your team, then it makes sense to have him there."

For Janzen, being selected to compete at Valderrama is some consolation for narrowly missing out in 1995. He finished eleventh in the points list that year and was ignored by Larry Wadkins, who went for Couples and Curtis Strange as his two selections. Janzen then won a tournament the following week.

"The pluses for Lee was that he was a US Open champion," Kite said. "He has had some Ryder Cup experience and he had a good strong finish yesterday playing in front of



Janzen booked his place in the US PGA Championship

the captain. He has been a little inconsistent lately but he did have some strong finishes in the past few weeks."

This is a very strong looking team, Severiano Ballesteros, captain of the Europe team,

will announce his players at the BMW International Open in Munich on August 31. On paper, it will not match Kite's team, but that does not mean to say that it cannot win the 1997 Ryder Cup.

Todd's line lands Fish for Bolton

BY DAVID MADDOCK

BOLTON Wanderers yesterday completed one of the more remarkable transfers of the new season when they landed a fish previously thought too big for the English football pond. The Lancashire club signed Mark Fish, the South Africa international, for £2 million, when the player had last season turned down their more glamorous neighbours, Manchester United.

The 24-year-old defender arrived at Old Trafford last season with Alex Ferguson, the United manager, suggesting that he was a centre half of rare quality. But, after only three days' training with the club, Fish slipped off to Italy and chose instead to sign for Lazio, of Rome.

He did, however, endure an uncomfortable time with the Italian side and when Bolton contacted Lazio last week the defender pushed for the move to the extent that yesterday he was granted a transfer.

"The deal is 99 per cent complete, we are just waiting for Lazio to send through the player's international clearance," Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, said.

"Lazio did not want to let him go and I believe there were four Italian clubs also in the running to sign him, but we were persistent and in the end we managed to persuade him to join us."

"He has played at the very highest level and has just helped South Africa to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time. Playing in Italy has also given him valuable experience and he is an ideal signing for us."

"He has brought much-

needed competition to our back line," Todd added.

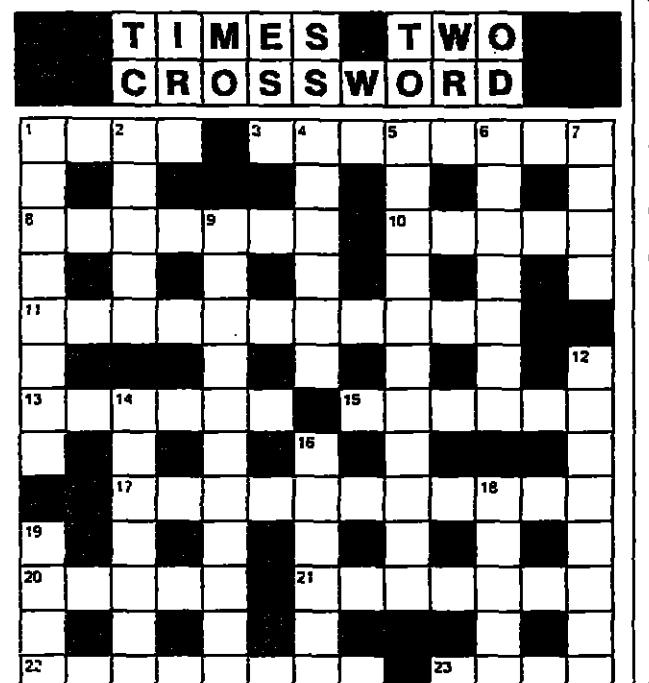
Fish was the subject of another Manchester United inquiry during the summer, but on that occasion Lazio were reluctant to allow the defender to leave despite the player's limited opportunity in Rome when he played for it. Gascoigne once played for it, is something of a coup for Todd, as was the £450,000 signing yesterday of the former England international forward, Peter Beardsley, from Newcastle United.

Beardsley had, in fact, agreed to join Bolton several weeks ago, but the move was blocked because Kenny Dalglish, the Newcastle manager, felt that his squad lacked adequate cover given a series of pre-season injuries, including that to Alan Shearer, the England captain, and the departure to Tottenham Hotspur of Les Ferdinand, the England forward.

But Dalglish has moved in the transfer market to bring in ageing free signings in Stuart Pearce, John Barnes and Neil Rush and it was after the striker arrived at St James' Park that Beardsley was finally given the all-clear to move.

He underwent a medical last night and should it prove clear, then he will be in the squad for the FA Cup First Round match at Coventry City on Saturday, as will Fish.

"We agreed terms some time ago and Peter will be in for training in the morning," Todd said last night. "It is a great buy for us, he has a wealth of experience and is still a player of great quality."



No 1176

- ACROSS
- Chrysalis (4)
 - Precise (5)
 - Competent (7)
 - Tear into tiny bits (5)
 - With desperate urgency (3,4,4)
 - Long pace (6)
 - Insight: summary (6)
 - Over-sensitive (4,7)
 - 1/10 furlong: set of links (5)
 - World creation month, 4004 BC (1,5,6)
 - Debut (8)
 - Ran away (4)
- DOWN
- Objector to fighting (8)
 - Essay: exam question set (5)
 - Verse (6)
 - Particular instance (4,2,5)
 - Refrain from (7)
 - Musical tail-piece (4)
 - Earned (for family) (1,1)
 - Broken apart (8)
 - Struggle of making living (3,4)
 - Formally accompany (6)
 - Dynamite inventor, endowed eg Peace prize (5)
 - Dull pain (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1175
ACROSS: 1 Bifurcated 8 Bayonet 9 Choke 10 Edna 11 Composed 13 Ad hoc 14 Dowdy 16 Lawfully 17 Grub 20 Maja 21 Willing 22 Snappedragon
DOWN: 1 Bible 2 Fly on the wall 3 Rand 4 Action 5 Escapade 6 Housewarming 7 Heyday 12 Schumann 15 Affaire 15 Blow up 18 Begin 19 Slur

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UNITED STATES RYDER CUP TEAM					
Captain: Tom Kite					
	Age	World ranking	Previous Ryder Cup titles	Major titles	Ryder Cup record
Fred Couples	37	12	4	1	P15 W17 L7
Brad Faxon	36	16	1	0	P3 W1 L2
Jim Furyk	27	21	0	0	
Scott Hoch	41	14	0	0	
Lee Janzen	32	37	3	1	P2 W1 L2
Tom Lehman	38	6	1	1	P5 W1 L2
Justin Leonard	25	11	0	1	P1 W1 L2
Davis Love III	35	2	0	1	P1 W1 L2
Jeff Maggert	33	23	0	0	P4 W1 L2
Phil Mickelson	27	1	0	0	P1 W1 L2
Mark O'Meara	40	3	0	0	P8 W2 L15
Tiger Woods	21	1	0	0	

JOHNNIE WALKER RYDER CUP POINTS STANDINGS					
Top ten qualify automatically. European closing date August 31.					
	Points		Points		Points
1. C Montgomerie (Scot)	854,445	11. T Woods	1,185,000		
2. D Clarke (Ire)	594,833	12. J Leonard	1,089,500		
3. B Langer (Ger)	519,147	13. Y Lehman	1,022,853		
4. I Wainman (Wales)	508,327	14. D Love	957,258		
5. L Westwood (Eng)	482,359	15. J Furyk	847,500		
6. I Garrido (Spa)	371,696	16. P Mickelson	809,298		
7. P42 Johnson (Scot)	336,305	17. J Maggert	806,625		
8. T Bjorn (Den)	331,679	18. M O'Meara	801,250		
9. M-A Mardon (Spa)	324,400	19. S Hoch	791,562		
10. C Rocca (Ita)	317,007	20. B Faxon	727,500		
11. P Harrington (Ire)	299,692	21. T Tolles	699,000		
12. J Hoggan (Scot)	287,606	22. S Jones	679,000		
13. P Broadhurst (Eng)	256,467	23. M Brooks	549,000		
14. R Chapman (Eng)	242,372	24. P Stankowski	503,000		
15. J Hoggan (Scot)	242,350	25. L Janzen	498,000		
16. S Sorenson (Scot)	240,787	26. D Dorn	470,000		
17. M James (Eng)	237,600	27. F Couples	458,500		
18. D O'Leary (Eng)	232,232	28. Y Watson	433,000		
19. P Mitchell (Eng)	212,794	29. T Kite	422,000		
20. R Clayton (Eng)	138,415	30. M Bradley	402,000		

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